

Community Issues Report

FOURTH QUARTER 2004

Meredith Corporation
WHNS FOX Carolina

1/1/05

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COMMUNITY ISSUES
10/1/04 – 12/31/04

Consumer, Health & Safety

An interest in knowing about events that impact our daily lives. A need for information about how to be wise shoppers of goods and services and how to live healthy and safe lives.

Crime

A need to know about crime and law enforcement activities and a concern for personal safety.

Education

A concern about the money and skills needed to improve schools and an interest in improving student's quality of education.

Environment

A concern for how the environment is affected by human activity.

Government

An interest in how government affects our personal lives

Jobs/Economy/Growth

An interest in the local and national economic outlook and the impact growth has on our communities

Quality of Life

An interest in things that improve one's satisfaction with life.

The following pages list representative samples of program segments from The Ten O'clock Newscast, The News at 6:30 Newscast and The Morning Newscast during this quarter that respond to our ascertained issues. Each segment was 20 seconds to 3 minutes in length (except as otherwise reported).

The following pages also identify issue-responsive episodes of programs, which are listed under the appropriate issue.

WHNS also broadcasts public service announcements, news and weather cut-ins as needed to inform local community of breaking news and emergencies.

Attachments



Consumer, Health & Safety

**PROGRAMS ADDRESSING PROBLEM/NEED
FOURTH QUARTER 2004**

Problem/Need: **CONSUMER**

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>PROGRAM</u>
Sundays (airs weekly)	5:30 am	BUSINESS WEEK

DESCRIPTION: Up-to-the-minute reports present an interpretation of each week's business and financial news for the average viewer and summarize the key economic events from around the world that directly affect every consumer in America. (30:00)

October 1, 2004	10pm	The Ten O'clock News
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DESCRIPTION:

South Carolinians can expect to pay more for natural gas as cold weather approaches and supplies are tight. South Carolina Electric & Gas Co. has asked the Public Service Commission to approve a 2.6 percent increase in the fuel charge, utility spokesman Robin Montgomery said. The PSC will consider the request Oct. 21. The increase would be about \$2.70 per month, bringing the average residential customer's bill to about \$118. "It reflects what we are paying on the wholesale market," Montgomery said. SCE&G has about 276,000 natural gas customers in South Carolina. The state-owned utility, Santee Cooper, expects rate increases this winter, said spokeswoman Laura Varn. Higher natural gas and coal prices will probably result in a rate increase for Santee Cooper's 138,000 customers of about \$15 to \$50, depending on usage, Varn said. Santee Cooper does not need PSC approval for rate increases.

October 1, 2004	10:00pm	The Ten O'clock News
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DESCRIPTION:

The state Banking Commissioner has delayed a hearing on whether one of the nation's largest payday lenders is following North Carolina law. Commissioner of Banks Joseph Smith Jr. had issued a subpoena for representatives of Advance America to attend a public hearing Tuesday. The hearing has been delayed, an assistant to Smith said Friday. More details weren't immediately available. The commissioner's request is part of a two-pronged investigation by state officials into whether Advance America, based in Spartanburg, S.C., is subject to a state law capping interest rates on traditional consumer finance loans. Advance America, which operates more than 100 payday lending outlets in North Carolina, contends that law doesn't apply to the company. While Advance America offers the loans, a Kentucky bank is the actual lender, the company says. The state Attorney General's Office also is investigating Advance America. It set a Sept. 24 deadline for the company to provide it with certain documents. After discussions with state attorneys, Advance America provided the paperwork late this week, said Noelle Talley, an attorney general's spokeswoman. Talley said the investigation is continuing. A North Carolina statute that regulated the payday lending industry expired in 2001 and has never been replaced. In a payday lending transaction, a borrower writes the lender a check and postdates it for the time the loan expires. The borrower receives the check amount and takes a fee. The loans usually are a few hundred dollars and typically short-term - 15 days or less. Annual percentage rates on the loans many times are more than 400 percent. Payday lenders contend the fees are small compared to other short-term loan options.

October 4, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

A man has been found dead at an electricity substation by Duke Power crews investigating reports of power outages. The man was found dead at the base of a transformation tower around 5 p.m. on Monday. Power was shut off to more than 4,000 homes while Spartanburg County deputies collected evidence from the scene but had been restored by 6:55 p.m., said Duke Power spokesman Tim Pettit. Pettit said the substations are fenced and signs are posted warning of the danger of high-voltage equipment. "No member of the public should ever be inside a substation for any reason," Pettit said.

October 6, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

Some roads have been cleared of mud slides and debris from two tropical storm systems, but it may be spring before all roads are cleared in some western counties, said a state road engineer. The N.C. Department of Transportation has gotten at least some lanes open on all but two sites in Henderson County, District Engineer Mark Gibbs said Tuesday. Two roads near Edneyville remain completely blocked, but other roads provide alternative access to those areas. Having 130 DOT workers from out of town to supplement the 70 DOT workers in Henderson and Transylvania counties is helping progress on clearing roads, Gibbs said. Workers from DOT divisions near Charlotte and Winston-Salem are sawing up and hauling away an estimated 3,200 trees that fell along road rights of way. "I feel like if they will leave them here another three or four weeks, we will have a pretty good handle on getting the debris cleaned up," Gibbs said. While the out-of-town workers tackle the trees, local DOT workers are working on how to repair dozens of slides. "We have several sites that have been repaired, but we have some large sites that probably won't be completely repaired until spring of next year," Gibbs said. DOT has repaired slides that closed roads near Laurel Park and on Saturday opened part of U.S. 74 in Bat Cave that had been closed by washed out culverts. Engineers think they will have to design and build retaining walls for at least five sites in Henderson County - two on Middle Fork Road, two on U.S. 64 East near Bat Cave and a slide on Lamb Mountain Road in Edneyville. A spot where the Big Hungry River washed out one lane of Big Hungry Road could cost \$500,000 to repair. DOT will have to cut into the slope to create new road bed there because the washout drops almost vertically to the river. In Henderson County, remnants from Hurricanes Frances and Ivan are blamed for more than \$5.7 million in 130 slides. The storms also are blamed for causing \$1.87 million worth of damage at 81 sites in Transylvania County and \$865,000 damage to 48 sites in Polk County. The Federal Emergency Management Agency will reimburse DOT for most damage costs to secondary roads, while the Federal Highway Administration will cover costs for repairs to primary routes such as U.S. 64 and 74, provided repairs are completed in 180 days. "The only way we are going to meet those time frames is to get outside help, or to let additional contracts for slide repairs," Gibbs said.

October 20, 2005

Description:

Feeling poorly treated by Democrats on the state elections board, a national Republican group filed suit Thursday, seeking to get its television ads on the air in North Carolina before Election Day. The Republican Governors Association alleges the State Board of Elections is treating it differently from a similar Democratic group that was allowed to run advertisements for the governor's race. RGA leaders said they can't get a fair shake because all three Democrats on the five-member board, including chairman Larry Leake, have donated to Democratic Gov. Mike Easley's campaign. The lawsuit filed in Raleigh federal court seeks "to remedy an unfortunate abuse of power by the North Carolina elections board," RGA executive director Ed Tobin said. Democratic board members are blocking its ads for "purely partisan purposes before the election," he said. The three Democrats voted last month

to fine the RGA nearly \$200,000 for airing an advertisement supporting Republican gubernatorial candidate Patrick Ballantine. And just last week, the board agreed in a similar 3-2 vote to block an RGA ad critical of Easley's record. The RGA had agreed to spend nearly \$500,000 on the ad purchase in three television markets. The board this month failed to take action against the State Capitol Media Project, which seeks to elect Democratic governors. The Democratic board members said the Project's ad, which mentioned Ballantine, didn't cross the threshold of being unlawful. The RGA's lawsuit wants the court to say the board unconstitutionally applied two state laws in the association's case. It also wants a judge to prevent the board and prosecutors from blocking its ad, declaring it a violation of the constitutional rights of Republican voters. No hearing date was immediately set. Attempts to reach the state board's attorney were unsuccessful. The Attorney General's office, which represents the board in court, declined comment. Board member Genevieve Sims of Raleigh, a Democrat, said the board's decisions have had nothing to do with politics. She mentioned that the board unanimously agreed that the first RGA ad was illegal before voting 3-2 to issue the fine. "They keep wanting to label it as a political decision being made," Sims said. In the past, she said, "we've ruled the same ways against Democrats as we have against Republicans." Democrats on the board said the RGA can't participate in North Carolina politics because it failed to register with the state as a political action committee. Tobin said it filed hundreds of pages with the Board of Elections so it could meet PAC requirements, but the board said it still hadn't followed the rules properly. The RGA ultimately wants to run the ads as a 527 group, named after the federal tax code it falls under. A state law approved this past summer, however, prohibits 527s from paying for television ads in the final weeks of an election with corporate and union contributions. The state board said in a letter to RGA earlier this week that the RGA listed only \$111,500 in individual contributions - far short of what was needed for the planned ad buy. But Glenn Willard, an attorney representing RGA, said the group provided records showing more than \$500,000 in "non-corporate contributions." Willard acknowledged some of that money came from a union's political action committee but argued it isn't prohibited because it ultimately came from individual donors.

October 22, 2004 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

State Attorney General Henry McMaster says it's "outrageous" that some investors are being ordered to repay money they withdrew from Carolina Investors up to three months before the company went bankrupt. But McMaster said his office can't do anything to help the investors because that part of the case is under the jurisdiction of the federal courts and the bankruptcy trustee. "There's a legal question about whether the trustee had any real choice in that because if he had not done that, then someone may have sued him for not going after every dollar," McMaster said. "But on the other hand, to require those people who, for a variety of reasons, took their money out during that 90-day period to repay that money, I think is outrageous." About 12,000 people lost \$278 million when Carolina Investors went under in the spring of 2003 in the largest bankruptcy ever in South Carolina. The investors will get back about 18 cents on the dollar under a settlement approved by a federal judge earlier this month. Trustee Ralph McCullough's office has tracked down about 130 investors who withdrew about \$3 million in the three months before Carolina Investors collapsed to find out why they took their money early, violating the maturity dates of their investment contracts, said Rick Gleissner, a member of the trustee's legal team. The trustee has agreed to drop claims against some investors who could show the withdrawals were part of normal business, Gleissner said. That includes a couple who put a \$13,000 insurance settlement from a vehicle wreck into a Carolina Investors account and withdrew it two weeks later to buy a new truck, he said. "They took that money back out and that just fits, conforms with ordinary course of business," Gleissner said. "I'm sorry that the attorney general feels that way, but we're only fulfilling our fiduciary obligation and the last thing we want to do is get sued ourselves because we didn't do something right," Gleissner said. McMaster also thinks investors should be told how much officers and directors of Carolina Investors and its parent company, HomeGold Financial Inc., paid individually to settle the civil lawsuit. "We think that the openness of government requires that that kind of information be made public," McMaster said. But that's unlikely because of federal confidentiality rules in mediated settlements. The best recourse for investors, especially those who must answer demands to pay back their withdrawals, is to hire a lawyer, McMaster said. "My advice would be that whenever there's a doubt, hire somebody, get someone who knows the law who can speak for you and have the question answered authoritatively," McMaster said.

October 22, 2004 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

U.S. Senate candidates Jim DeMint and Inez Tenenbaum lobbed barbs at each other Thursday over the issue of President Bush's federal judicial nominees and job losses in the state. "President Bush's highly qualified judicial nominees deserve an up or down vote," DeMint said at a press conference held in Greenville. The Republican congressman, running to replace retiring U.S. Sen. Ernest "Fritz" Hollings, was joined by Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., at the event. DeMint also said Tenenbaum has not told South Carolina voters her position on the matter, according to a press release. Tenenbaum, the Democratic state education superintendent, responded by saying DeMint was trying to shift the public's attention away from the announcement that Greenville-based Delta Woodside Industries will close a 361-worker textile plant in Piedmont. "I'm on the record. I want all nominees to have an up-or-down vote," Tenenbaum said in a telephone interview. "He's trying to talk federal judges on a day when people are worrying about how they will make ends meet." Democrats in the Senate have blocked votes on some of the White Houses most-desired judicial nominations, echoing moves during President Clinton's tenure when Republicans would not allow votes on his nominees to the federal bench. DeMint and Tenenbaum are vying to replace retiring Democrat Hollings, who has held the seat for nearly 40 years.

October 22, 2004 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

North Carolina's Senate race is deadlocked between Republican Richard Burr and Democrat Erskine Bowles as they push toward the Nov. 2 election, according to a poll taken this week. Statewide, 45 percent of likely voters said they support Bowles, 45 percent support Burr, and 10 percent are still undecided, according to the Mason-Dixon poll results released Thursday. The survey of 625 likely voters was conducted Monday and Tuesday by Mason-Dixon Polling & Research Inc. and has a margin of error of plus or minus four percentage points. The poll represents continued progress for Burr, who has gained steadily on Bowles since July. Bowles, who spent \$13 million on an unsuccessful Senate race against Elizabeth Dole in 2002, had a lead of 10 percentage points in similar polls in May and July. A Mason-Dixon poll in September - after Burr's ads began mentioning Bowles' tenure as President Clinton's chief of staff - narrowed the gap to a Bowles lead of one percentage point. "On the surface, it's headed exactly in the direction that we designed - and that's to move ahead at the end," Burr said Thursday. Brad Coker, the managing director at Mason-Dixon, said the trends favor Burr with President Bush holding a lead of eight percentage points in North Carolina. "It's a tie, but if you read between the lines, it's kind of going Burr's way," Coker said. Polling also showed negative ratings for both Burr and Bowles have jumped. The percentage who viewed Bowles negatively climbed from 28 percent in September to 35 percent this month, and the percentage who viewed Burr negatively shot up from 21 percent to 32 percent. "Obviously the campaign's turned negative," Coker said. "They're having the classic North Carolina food fight." Carlos Monje, a Bowles spokesman, said Bowles expected the race to tighten. "We knew it was going to be a close race. That's just the way North Carolinians are - it's an independent-minded state, and the independents are the last to make up their minds," Monje said. "We think the thing that will sway the independents' minds in the end is who is going to be the least partisan."

October 22, 2004 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION;

Hundreds of people who registered to vote a few weeks ago could be turned away from the polls because their voter registration forms were not mailed in time. The forms were collected Sept. 29 to Oct. 2 during a voter registration drive at The Greenwood Mall. They had to be mailed by Oct. 2, which was a Saturday, but they ended up postmarked Oct. 4 because they were dropped in the mail too late, said Connie Moody, director of voter registration and elections for Greenwood County. "The group that conducted the drive thought that if they mailed

the applications that they would be postmarked," Moody said. "But I have no way of proving that they mailed the applications on Saturday." Moody said several hundred people registered at the drive, and a number of them have called her office upset over the situation. Anyone who registered to vote during that time and hasn't received a postcard confirming it should call the Voter Registration Office, Moody said.

October 22, 2004 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

South Carolina Republicans are leading the money race going into the last few weeks of a much-watched U.S. Senate race, Federal Election Commission reports showed. Republican Rep. Jim DeMint and Democratic Education Superintendent Inez Tenenbaum are vying to replace retiring U.S. Sen. Ernest "Fritz" Hollings. National party groups have poured \$2.1 million into a race that will help determine if Democrats regain control of the U.S. Senate and keep control of Hollings' seat. Republicans finished September with \$837,090 on hand after raising \$750,433 that month. That fund-raising included \$624,000 transferred from national Republicans and \$82,923 in individual donations. The state GOP's fund-raising in September included a \$250,000 donation from the Bush-Cheney campaign and \$300,000 from the Republican National Committee. Democrats finished September with \$225,533 on hand after raising \$666,041. The fund-raising included \$514,646 in transfers from national Democrats and \$54,440 from individuals. Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee donated \$475,500 during September, pushing that group's total donations to \$1.4 million. Democrats appeared to be narrowing a money gap. The finished August with \$55,936 in cash on hand, compared with the GOP's \$427,663. Going into the election's final two weeks, the GOP reported it had \$828,715 on hand. The Democratic Party's pre-election report was not filed Thursday afternoon.

October 27, 2004 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

Starting Thursday, writing checks may not give you a few extra days to make sure you've got the money to back them up. That means, if you're one of the many people who rely on the "floating" check system, you may want to invest in some bounce protection because once you write a check, it'll be deducted from your account that same day. These changes are all part of a new federal law. Your cart is full, now it's time to pay, should you go with the cash? Or a credit card? Or maybe a check, that way you'll have a few extra days to make sure it clears, well, not anymore. As of October 28th, once you hand over that check, the money will be taken out of your account that day. Laine Robertson writes checks for lots of things, she says, "I guess it's necessary because we're all guilty of floating a little bit every now and then, but it's a good thing I guess, probably make us more honest." As for Robin Justice, she says, "I think we all [float checks], especially when it comes close to payday, got a couple of days until it comes in, but all in all it'll make for better money management." Emily Crawford only uses checks, she says, "Probably a little bit scary if your funds aren't sufficient in your bank account, could be a scary thing for some people." Scary and costly, the new processing could mean a lot more bounced checks if your account isn't full. The changes don't include immediate processing of deposits. "That doesn't seem quite fair, especially if you get a paycheck from out of town," says Laine. It'll still take time for deposits to be available, as for writing checks, Emily suggests, "Probably a good idea to make sure your checkbook is balanced before you use your checkbook." Laine says, "We'll hope that bounce protection is a good thing and that it's worth the extra to go with the bounce protection, but hopefully not." Some companies, like Bi-Lo will still send their checks to their own bank and that's where the check will be processed, so you may have a slight floating time. But you may just want to plan on keeping your checking account nice and full to avoid any bounced check fees.

October 27, 2004 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

Bold accusations are coming from the Greenville N.A.A.C.P. this week. The head of the Greenville County Elections Commission is being compared to the K.K.K. Nearly 226,000 people are registered to vote in Greenville County, but the head of the N.A.A.C.P. says not all of those people will get to the polls because the man in charge of elections is trying to keep black people from getting there. The head of elections says that is absolutely not the case. Commercials are airing throughout the state claiming: "This year, thousands of South Carolinians will vote using the newest, most advance voting technology in the world. Every vote matters. Every vote counts". But does it? The most advanced voting technology in the world is already hitting a number of snafus in Greenville County and the N.A.A.C.P. says it's because of Conway Belangia, head of the Greenville Election Commission. "Whether he likes the term or not...what the K.K.K. accomplished in the past and that is to outright kill the participation of the afro-American in the process", says Paul Guy, head of the N.A.A.C.P. Less than a week before Election Day, some voters still don't have their registration cards. A realigning of voting precincts and a printing error is being blamed. Belangia fires back, the accusations made by the N.A.A.C.P. are personal. "There is nothing intentional in this office at all. But he won't come talk to me about it. He would rather speak to you, he wants to talk to you", says Belangia. Whether you have your registration card or not, it is really not that big of a deal. You will still be allowed to vote. You just have to make sure you do it at the right precinct. To find out where that is, go to scvotes.org.

November 1, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

For a general election season shortened by redistricting litigation, politics in North Carolina this year sure were long on history. Historic because a North Carolina resident was chosen a major party's vice presidential nominee for the first time since Whig Party hopeful William Alexander Graham in 1852. Historic because GOP lawmakers spent millions fighting each other in the July 20 primary over the creation of a co-speakership in the state House. And candidates went to great lengths to compare themselves or their opponents to past political figures, including Jesse Helms, Bill Clinton, and even Saddam Hussein. On the eve of Election Day, here's a quick look back at some of the most memorable moments of the 2004 election season: **JOHN EDWARDS:** The boyish-looking Raleigh attorney surprised a lot of people when the political novice beat U.S. Sen. Lauch Faircloth in 1998 and came within a whisker of becoming Al Gore's running mate in 2000. So was it any wonder that his accelerated political career included a run at the presidency? His populist message caught the ear of Democrats nationwide, but he only managed to win two primary contests: North Carolina and South Carolina, where he was born. Still, his second-place finishes left John Kerry with little choice but to choose him as his running mate. Edwards returned home to a hero's welcome with Kerry on July 10 on the campus of N.C. State University in Raleigh. At least 19,000 people braved temperatures in the 90s to attend, making it one of the largest political events in state history. **EDWARDS' IMPACT:** While Kerry and Edwards made several separate trips to North Carolina, the appearances diminished as the presidential campaign went deeper into the fall and it appeared North Carolina would remain in the Bush-Cheney column. Hopes that Edwards could help the Democrats break their presidential streak here seemed to fizzle as the Kerry-Edwards campaign shifted resources to more competitive states. **SENATE FIGHT:** After a relative blowout by Elizabeth Dole two years ago, the U.S. Senate race for Edwards' seat - between Democrat Erskine Bowles and Republican Richard Burr - reverted to North Carolina tradition: too close to call. Bowles returned to the campaign trail after his 2002 defeat by Dole more relaxed and energetic. He replaced out-of-state advisers with people who worked with Jim Hunt and other state Democrats. But he couldn't get away from his old boss Clinton. Burr's campaign began a post-Labor Day blitz of ads reminding voters of Bowles' past as White House chief of staff. They blamed Bowles for Clinton tax increases, trade deals with China and more welfare spending for immigrants. Burr closed Bowles' summertime lead at the same time the ads started running. Burr, on the other hand, received the blessing of Helms, the conservative icon, by speaking on his behalf in at least two rallies Down East. **MORGAN VS. RINOS:** The GOP House primary races showed the wounds among state Republicans haven't healed after nearly a decade of fighting. Supporters and opponents of the historic House co-speakership built by Rep. Richard Morgan, R-Moore, spent nearly \$3 million leading up to the July 20 primary. When it all cleared, four Morgan allies lost their races while only one of his opponents lost. Both sides declared victories, but it appeared that GOP members forgot to find candidates for a number of "vulnerable" Democratic incumbents. The result: either Democrats will regain control of the chamber, or Morgan will keep a tenuous hold within the House leadership. **GOP PRIMARY:** The most stunning campaign moment of the year in North Carolina came July 22, when Richard Vinroot decided not to call a runoff for the GOP gubernatorial nominee even though he trailed Patrick Ballantine in the six-way primary by only 1,509 votes. Vinroot, who had vowed the day before to fight on and called Ballantine too moderate, arrived at state Republican Party headquarters a few hours after Ballantine's own news conference. His announcement surprised state party officials, who didn't have any Ballantine placards in

stock when the news broke. Vinroot said he did it so the party could unify and put resources behind defeating Mike Easley. But Ballantine remained at a significant fund-raising disadvantage to Mike Easley throughout the fall. GUBERNATORIAL DEBATES: Ballantine threw down the gauntlet in the first few seconds of his first debate by saying he would be a champion of education. Easley came back with: "If Patrick Ballantine is a champion of education, then Saddam Hussein is a champion of civil rights." Their relationship didn't improve much during their second debate, although they both managed to compliment each other's wives on camera. PUBLIC FINANCING: Twelve of the 16 candidates for appellate court seats participated in the new voluntary public financing campaign program. Supporters of the 2002 law, which give candidates general election money in exchange for individual fund-raising limits, call the plan a success. Some candidates have complained that moving the races to nonpartisan affairs has made it more difficult to get their campaign message out with the money provided through the program. Some 4 million North Carolina households also got a voters' guide to learn about the candidates for the Supreme Court and the Court of Appeals. VOTING INTERESTS: Voter registration reached an all-time high in North Carolina as more 683,000 actual new residents - also a record - signed up to vote since October 2003. And early voting at election offices statewide was expected to near 1 million participants - more than twice the total from 2000, the first year of expanded absentee voting.

November 1, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

Sen. John Edwards implored Democrats in battleground states to vote in Tuesday's election and predicted victory for presidential candidate John Kerry, saying "Tomorrow, hope will arrive." The Democratic vice presidential nominee, who for months has declared on the campaign trail that "Hope is on the way," thanked workers manning a phone bank in a quick stop at campaign headquarters in Iowa, a competitive state that offers seven electoral votes. "We're gonna win," he said as he shook hands and patted backs while snaking his way through a crowd of volunteers. With polls showing a tight race, Edwards was campaigning in two states Democrats are trying to hold onto - Minnesota and Iowa - and two others that the party is looking to take from the Republicans - Ohio and Florida. Earlier, at a rally in St. Paul, Minn., Edwards invoked the names of Minnesota Democrats Hubert Humphrey, Walter Mondale and Paul Wellstone, and said: "This is a place where people understand what being a Democrat means, right? This is a place where you understand what's at stake in this election." He emphasized a standard line in his speech, saying, "The American dream is on the ballot" and then exclaiming, "It is on the ballot tomorrow." And, he told supporters to tell friends who are concerned about job losses, health care and the Iraq war that "Tuesday, hope is on the way." The sign-waving crowd responded by clapping in unison at each syllable as they chanted "Hope is on the way! Hope is on the way!" Later, Edwards was stopping in Cincinnati to thank volunteers before flying to Florida, a state he has visited almost every day over the past week. At a late-night rally in Pompano Beach, Fla., the candidate planned to bring a little locally based star power. Singer Jimmy Buffett was scheduled to warm up the crowd. As polls close Tuesday night, Edwards is to fly to Boston to join Kerry at an outdoor rally.

November 1, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

We don't even know the results, but Tuesday's election is already being hailed as the most important in American history. The candidates for the U.S. Senate are not taking that lightly, stumping until the very last minute; criss-crossing the state one final time. The energy is higher than ever as the race comes to a close. If there's any reservation in either camp about winning, Democratic nominee Inez Tenenbaum and Republican Congressman Jim DeMint certainly are not going to let you know that. DeMint says, "I've been here before in a different way. I've ran one marathon and I remember what it was like when I couldn't take another step and I saw the finish line and I think I can make it that far." "I feel great about tomorrow I can tell you the momentum is moving our way. We have a tremendous get out the vote effort, we've organized for months," says Tenenbaum. But Tuesday, the same voters both candidates have been courting will steal the headlines by choosing which one will actually become the newest U.S. Senator. Michelle Sarbaugh, says, "I'm going to vote for DeMint tomorrow because I vote for morality over money." "I just think Inez is by far the best qualified candidate," says Lillian Simpson. By Election Day, most people know where the two Senate hopefuls stand. But in case you haven't read the paper or watched T.V. over the last

couple of years, here it is one last time. "I've been talking about two things. the importance of being part of a team on a national, state and local level where were proud of each other. We've also been talking about the need for reform and how important it is to talk about ideas to build a better future," says DeMint. Tenenbaum says, "I believe in an independent voice to develop jobs and try to work with republicans and democrats for affordable health insurance, be a leader in education and put state first above any partisan politics."

November 3, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

Spyware, an amorphous class of software that mostly gets onto computers without their users' knowledge, has become epidemic in the past year as people spend more time online and spyware developers get more aggressive. The resource-hungry programs often render machines unusable. "It makes spam look like a walk in the park," said Bob Bowman, chief executive of Major League Baseball's Internet unit, which in June started banning new advertisers from using such techniques. San Francisco marketing consultant David Eckstein turned on his computer one day and launched his Web browser, just as he had every day. This time, however, CNN.com did not automatically open. Instead, the page was a search engine he'd never heard of. Eckstein tried changing the browser settings back to CNN but the search engine would return whenever he rebooted. Finally, he just gave up, yet another victim of spyware. "It makes you want to throw your computer out the window," Eckstein said. As part of a government-backed study, technicians visited Jenna Dye recently in Young Harris, Ga., and found 1,300 spyware-related items on her machine. "It would shut itself down in the middle of doing stuff. We had lots of pop-ups. The (CD-ROM) drawers would pop open," the mother of two complained. "It's frustrating. We spent \$1,800 on our computer and we didn't want to use it." Until the machine was cleaned up, Dye and her husband would make 2 1/2 hour trips to the nearest mall to avoid shopping online. "We use it every day now again," she said. Spyware was found on the computers of 80 percent of participants in the study, conducted by America Online Inc. and the National Cyber Security Alliance. Since EarthLink Inc. began offering free anti-spyware tools, each scan has found an average of six such programs. When including "cookie" data files that online sources use to track user behavior, the average rises to 26. The most common type of spyware is more properly termed adware, its main goal to generate pop-up and other ads. Browser hijackers, the kind Eckstein got, direct users to rogue search engines, from which spyware developers or distributors get a commission. Dialers scam users by making international phone calls that carry hefty per-minute surcharges. A rare but malicious form can steal passwords and other confidential data. The intrusive programs aren't always well-written and can use resources inefficiently. "Often, you don't just have one. You might have a half-dozen or even a dozen that can bring your computer to a screeching halt," said Tim Lordan, staff director of the Internet Education Foundation. "They are undermining confidence in the Internet. People are getting fed up." The most common way to get spyware, including adware, is to download file-sharing software, screensavers and other free programs that rely on revenues from such tagalong programs to cover costs. Spyware developers consider it part of the bargain, though they also depend on users' fascination with freebies. "A lot of them say, 'I'm going to get free smileys in my e-mail or some sort of free ... download without realizing the resource drain the sponsoring software is going to cause,'" said Wayne Porter, co-founder of SpywareGuide.com. Users themselves invite spyware by breezing through prompts and not reading licensing agreements they are required to accept. Consent to spyware is often buried there. Many of the larger companies whose software is delivered online with freebies have tried to clean up their act to the point that many don't actually harvest data anymore, though the term "spyware" has stuck. And their methods for disclosure and removal have improved in response to consumer complaints. But for every reputable operation, scores of shadier ones, often located abroad, are intent on tricking users into accepting spyware without any accompanying software. In a technique known as drive-by downloading, code embedded within pop-up ads or on Web sites that offer free songs, games or even pornography can instruct computers to begin downloading the rogue programs with minimal warning. Sometimes, those warning prompts even are programmed to keep popping up until users finally give up and say "yes," said Neel Mehta of Internet Security Systems Inc. And exploiting known flaws with Microsoft Corp.'s Windows operating system or the Internet Explorer browser, spyware developers can bypass the prompts entirely. "In the rush of doing things, people get confused and end up hitting one wrong button, and all of a sudden stuff is on your computer and you can't get it off," restaurant manager Damien LaRuffa said. His Washington, D.C., restaurants lost two computers for a few days because an assistant manager apparently was tricked into accepting a fake pitch for anti-spyware software. LaRuffa said the repair bill exceeded \$400. Matt Davin, technical services manager at a repair shop in Walla Walla, Wash., estimates that half his jobs are directly tied to spyware. Customers, he said, often

blame it on their kids downloading free programs. Spyware can infect power users as well. Just ask Ricky Rodrigue, who runs Dell Inc.'s customer support center. His son invited spyware onto his home machine while downloading games, and he once found more than 100 spyware items on his work machine. "That's how creative (they are) and how challenging it is to protect PCs," Rodrigue said. The less innocuous programs can usually be removed manually or by running one of several anti-spyware tools, many free. The nastier ones, however, immunize themselves and persist. "Almost every new threat released today comes with a reinstaller so that as soon as you try to remove it, it goes and reloads it," said Ron Franczyk, co-founder of anti-spyware vendor Giant Company Software Inc. Many spyware files carry names that mimic key Windows components and even hide among them in folders typically reserved for system files. "How do you know if you need a spool.exe?" asked Vilis Ositis, chief technology officer at Blue Coat Systems Inc. "Windows comes with thousands of files. How do you know which ones you need and which ones are spyware?" Congress is working on a ban, and industry groups have launched efforts to educate consumers and fight back with technology. Experts believe a solution will ultimately involve a combination of law enforcement, education and engineering. "We're at a crossroads," said Ari Schwartz, associate director of the Center for Democracy and Technology, a privacy-advocacy group. Fail to properly address spyware, Schwartz warned, and "users will not want to use the Internet for commerce, for government services, for interaction with other people. We'll lose the great potential of the Internet." By Anick Jesdanun - Associated Press Internet Writer Upcoming in Part II: Anti-spyware programs clean but don't disinfect.

November 10, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

South Carolina Secretary of State Mark Hammond says a telemarketing firm accused of improperly soliciting money has been banned from working in the state for five years. Hammond says the Greensboro, North Carolina, based On Guard Services Incorporated also must pay a \$2500 fine. Hammond asked a court to stop On Guard Services from asking South Carolinians to donate to a Greenville police union in June. Hammond says the telemarketer failed to tell people it was raising money for a union and misrepresented how much of the money collected went to the organization. Only about 25 percent of the money raised goes to the charity. He also said On Guard led potential donors to think they were raising money for the police department and misinformed potential donors by saying they were police officers and told them the contributions were tax deductible when they were not. State records show the company was fined in 2002, 2003 and earlier this year. They also show On Guard has raised about \$2 million since 1998, keeping about \$1.5 million.

November 10, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

Look away for a couple of minutes and your car could be gone. Now stealing cars is as easy as turning a key. It's a disturbing trend happening across the country. The Internet is used for a lot of goods things like research and even bargain shopping. However, it can also be a haven for criminals. Master keys for cars are being sold there. Most web pages show the keys are for maintenance workers, locksmiths or people who work in the repro business. However in the wrong hands it's a perfect tool for a car thief. Just about everyone has one: a car, a truck or an SUV, but what you may not know is that there are also thousands of thieves waiting to steal them. Jacqueline Rutledge learned the hard way. It all started Monday morning, September 20th. She wanted to make sure she made it to work early. It was a special day for her students at Tri-County Technical College Pendleton. They were taking nursing exams and she wanted to be there early for encouragement. She was in a rush but made time to stop by a Racetrack Convenience Store on Clemson Boulevard. "That morning I got out, left the keys in the car; ran in there to get my coffee," said Rutledge. She was only inside for a couple of minutes. "Next thing I know as I was paying for my coffee I looked up and I saw my car being driven off," commented Rutledge. She couldn't believe it. "I hollered..Ohhhh noooo they took my car," said Rutledge. Her purse was on the floor and inside of it was her checkbook and a set of keys to her house. Auto theft investigator, Jay Marett, says this happens all the time. "Don't leave your keys in the car, don't leave your door unlocked," commented Marett. He says a thief's target is usually the most popular vehicles. "Honda Accord, Chevrolet and Ford full size trucks," commented Marett. However, the old prowler and go is becoming a thing of the past and breaking windows is getting too risky. Now, car thieves are using a new tool in the comfort of their own homes. It all starts with a click a mouse and predators are searching the web for your car keys. We typed in "Master Keys" in the Ebay search engine and to our surprise found several keys online promising to open and start Chevrolet Suburbans, Blazers, full size trucks like Fords and Saturns. All for as low as \$7.99. We put in our order; it only took three days and \$12 and we had our master key for Chevrolet vehicles. The key came in an envelope from Ft. Myers, FL and it came with a set of instructions wrapped around it, telling us how to get into cars. So we took the key, our instructions and hit parking lots throughout the Upstate and started trying to unlock doors. That's when we met Christopher Alexander. It took us about three minutes and a lot of jiggling, but then a click and we were able to open his 1995 Chevy Suburban. We also tried to start it, but we were not able to crank it up. "It can be stolen by anybody if it was a thief he could just walk in my truck and take almost anything and that's kind of scary," said Alexander. Auto theft is the number one property crime in the country. It's an \$8.2 billion problem. We all pay for it, 1/3 of comprehensive insurance claims go toward stolen vehicle reports. Henry Mashburn is an insurance agent. "The more losses you have, the more losses the companies pay out on they definitely will adjust the premiums for that," commented Mashburn. Higher premiums, for a high crime that's becoming too easy to do. Car crooks are also swiping your ride by writing down vehicle identification numbers and walking straight into car dealerships and getting a copy of your key made without proof that the car belongs to them. So to protect yourself, investigators say it's simple. Don't leave items on your seat always lock your doors and believe it or not don't leave your car parked in your driveway if you have a garage because car thefts are crimes of opportunity. Jacqueline Rutledge is one of the lucky ones. "They found my car it was a Wednesday morning at 4 AM," said Rutledge. A tough lesson for this professor to learn. "I don't take anything for granted, no matter where you are."

November 18, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

The checks are in the mail for people who lost money in the collapse of Carolina Investors, bankruptcy trustee Ralph McCullough said Thursday. McCullough said he has mailed the first part of a \$41 million dollar settlement that will give the more than 8,000 investors an average of 18 cents on the dollar. McCullough initially said the checks would be mailed before Thanksgiving, but pushed back the date shortly after a judge dismissed a lawsuit brought by an investor against the settlement. Bob Pierce of Anderson had challenged the \$9 million set aside in the settlement to pay the lawyers.

November 22, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

While hundreds of thousands of South Carolinians will still hit the road, highway travel in the state this Thanksgiving is expected to be down a bit from last year because of higher gas prices. The Highway Patrol announced Monday that troopers will be paying special attention to patrolling interstates, as will their counterparts in Georgia and North Carolina. "Our number one problem over the Thanksgiving holidays is the heavy volume of traffic passing through our state," said Highway Patrol Col. Russell F. Roark. An estimated 510,000 South Carolinians are expected to travel 50 miles or more from home by road this holiday weekend. That's down about 2.4 percent from a year ago because gas prices are about 50 cents a gallon higher, according to AAA Carolinas. "High gasoline prices appear to have influenced some travelers' decision to go by air instead of drive this year," said David E. Parsons, the chief executive officer and president of the motor club. Air travel is expected to be up about 7 percent. The average price of a gallon of gas in South Carolina is about \$1.85. Increasingly, some Thanksgiving travelers are looking for a little vacation as much as to have dinner with relatives. "Our bookings for Friday and Saturday are looking good," said Rick Mosteller, vice president of Fort Sumter Tours in Charleston which operates dinner and sightseeing cruises of the harbor. Tourism on Thanksgiving weekend in Charleston is comparable to an October weekend, one of the busier times of the year, added Mosteller, who is also vice chairman of the local visitors bureau. "It's a nice mix" of tourists and people in town to visit relatives, he said. Accommodations, he said, are a bit better value because rooms are not as expensive as during the height of the spring and fall seasons. Thanksgiving is the busiest travel time of the year on South Carolina highways. Last year 10 people died on the state's roads during the four-day weekend. There were 1,032 crashes which injured 506 people during the period. More motorists, people speeding and motorists not using safety belts can be a deadly combination, officials warned. "We can't emphasize enough the need to take important lifesaving steps such as buckling up, carefully planning your travel route and obeying the speed limit," said James Schweitzer, the director of the state Department of Public Safety. Officials say that while interstate highways are generally safer than other roads, at Thanksgiving that may not always be the case. That's because of heavy traffic, folks driving longer distances to be with their families and the possibility of multiple fatalities as families travel together in the same vehicle. Motorists can expect minor construction delays with some night lane closures along Interstates 20, 26 and 126 in Lexington, Newberry or Richland counties, the motor club said. Motorists traveling I-77 in Fairfield, Lexington and Richland counties can expect some daytime lane closures.

November 23, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

Christmas decorations seem to be up in stores earlier and earlier each year and now some stores are starting the traditional Black Friday sales early too. 'Tis the season to shop until you drop and pretty much everywhere you look, it's sale, sale, sale and Black Friday is the biggest shopping day of them all. Jody Rautiola shops on Black Friday every year, "We'll be out by 5:30 or 6, beat the traffic...We go quick and get home by lunch. I think it's great, I like to go, I wouldn't miss it." Brittany Everits agrees, "It's crazy, a lot of sales and it's a lot of fun." But not everyone enjoys the crowds and craziness. Kimberly Graham says, "Typically I don't do anything on Friday, unless there's some super special deal, usually there's no deal good enough to get me out of bed that early to deal with the crowd." Kate Drake says, "It's too crowded, so we're trying to get out early this year." Now there's good news for early shoppers, great deals aren't reserved just for Black Friday anymore. Now you can get after-Thanksgiving Day prices, two days early. Ginger Conley works at Bath and Body Works in Haywood Mall and says, "We will probably have a very good day tomorrow as well as Friday." While it doesn't take much for stores like Bath and Body Works to get ready for Black Friday, other stores, like Belk, take days to prepare and say they might as well start selling if they're already set-up. Many consumers don't seem to mind the extra shopping days. "It gives you more chances and more opportunities to get better deals," says Everits. Drake agrees, "I think it's great, and we've already got a lot of stuff so far today, a lot of great sales and we don't have to fight any crowds." Still, some shoppers, like Rautiola, live for the crowds and tradition of Black Friday, "I'll wait until Friday, it's the spirit I guess."

November 24, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

This summer's active hurricane season is still leaving its mark, this time on the foods you're eating and buying and it's costing you money. The prices of several different produce, especially tomatoes, are much higher than normal, so get ready to pay if you want to eat them. During her shopping trip to Bi-Lo, Lucy Brunson says, "The price is unbelievable, when you could get three of these for 72 cents back in the summer and now I hate to think what the three of these are going to cost, but they're good for my children and they will eat them, so I'm buying what is the price now? oh, \$3.49." Grocery stores and restaurants say there are four major storms to blame. According to Bi-Lo Store Manager, J.J. Jennings, "Most of our local grown vegetables have been affected by the hurricanes in Florida, which has made all the prices really skyrocket." High demand means rising prices, but the quality is also lacking. Michelle Falkosky, Quizno's Owner says, "Right now we're paying a lot for a bad product. We end up throwing out about a third of the box we get in when we do get them in." And now Quizno's can't even offer their customers tomatoes. "It's affected us tremendously, we were getting them for about \$30 per case and within a couple of weeks the price kept climbing and climbing and now we're at the point where we don't have any at all," says Falkosky. But Quizno's isn't the only fast food chain hurting. Jennings say, "You'll see the prices increase and when you go to Wendy's or McDonalds they're going to ask you if you want tomatoes on your burger." WENDY'S has even posted signs saying they'll offer tomatoes "by request only." Some customers find it frustrating, but others say they understand. "I hate to hear that because I like fruits and vegetables, but either way it really doesn't matter to me," says Quizno's customer, Tonee Madden. Jan Munafo says when she goes to Bi-Lo and shops, "I don't really look at the price when I come in, I just buy whatever I want." Despite the rising prices, Jennings says, "People have to have it, they have to eat." In addition to tomatoes, watch out for rising prices of squash, green beans, zucchini and bell peppers.

November 28, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

Sprinklers will be installed in a motel where six people died in a fire earlier this year, according to building permits. The Comfort Inn has remained closed since the early morning Jan. 26 fire. There is no indication when it might reopen. The fire has been ruled an arson and the six deaths homicides. No suspects have been arrested. At the time of the blaze, fire officials said all of the victims would have likely lived if the motel had sprinklers. The third-floor of the hotel was almost destroyed, according to an engineer's report filed with the application, which asks for permission to install sprinklers and do electrical and other work. A code enforcement panel must approve the plan before repair work can begin. The total cost of the renovation is estimated at \$300,000, according to the application. The five-story motel was built in 1988 before new building codes went into affect was not required to have a sprinkler system. All new buildings more than three-stories tall must have sprinklers.

November 25, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

While most people were stuffing their turkeys and stomachs Thanksgiving Day, many others were stuffing their carts-- getting a jump start on holiday shopping. Talk about feeding your habit- Garden Ridge on Woodruff Road makes it easy. The store was packed most of Thanksgiving Day and will stay open, around the clock, through Sunday. For those obsessed with holiday deals, it couldn't get any better. Traditionally all the work is in the kitchen on Thanksgiving Day. But each year, more and more cooks are trading their aprons for shopping carts. And the chefs turned shoppers are running around like turkeys with their heads cut off. Each with their own recipe for the best deal. Renee Dillard of Easley says, "We usually eat lunch and say ok. Let's go to Garden Ridge, I'm serious". Candace Bishop of Anderson says, "Up front they have fleece blankets for \$2.50 so everything is dirt cheap. If you dig deep you can find something". There wasn't a dull moment for the registers at Garden Ridge. Item after item, sale after sale, customer after customer. The shopping spree was on! Some loving it, others obviously there, well, because someone made them...but, they don't really matter anyway. "Husbands sit around and watch game so we decided wed come and go shopping where we could walk and look. Women like to do that", says Dillard. To keep all these visitors happy there has to be a good host. Many of them actually! And they're doing it out of the goodness of their hearts-- well, kind of. Karie Ellison, Assistant General Manager at Garden Ridge says, "We try and do special things, hat contests, and of course Thanksgiving Day they get paid overtime so hey, why not work today?"

December 7, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

Two Denny's franchise groups hit "grand slams" when they were named Operators of the Year for superior performance, the company announced at the Denny's Franchisee Association's eighth annual convention last month in San Diego. Top honors went to franchisees in California and Virginia for providing outstanding examples of Denny's commitment to its vision - Great Food and Great Service by Great People ... Every Time. Mahmood (Mazi) Kazemzadeh and Mohammad Ali Tabrizizadeh of the Los Angeles area were named Operator of the Year for 2004 among franchises with five or more restaurants. William (Bill) Holtzman of Mt. Jackson, Va., received the 2004 Operator of the Year award for franchises with fewer than five locations. Their restaurants scored highest among the chain's 1,056 franchised family-style restaurants based on their commitment to food safety, guest satisfaction and building the Denny's brand. "Denny's is proud to recognize these franchise owners, who exemplify our high brand standards and our commitment to three fundamental values - a 'can-do' attitude, an appreciation of others, and giving our best to our guests," said Nelson Marchioli, Denny's chief executive officer. "It's people like Mazi, Ali and Bill who help make Denny's the nation's number one choice in family-style dining." Between them, Kazemzadeh and Tabrizizadeh have more than 60 years of experience with Denny's. Kazemzadeh began his career at Denny's as a cook in 1970, while Tabrizizadeh started as a restaurant manager in 1981. The two joined forces in 1995 to create their successful franchise partnership and now own and operate five Denny's franchises in Southern California, employing 250 people. All five of the restaurants in their group recently earned the corporate Four Diamond Award for exceeding operating standards. Their restaurants have consistently scored high on guest satisfaction and this year the restaurants posted impressive double-digit sales increases - an accomplishment the two men attribute to their focus on both employees and guests. "We are delighted and truly honored to receive this prestigious award," said Mazi Kazemzadeh. "Our success is a testament not only to the dedication and hard work of all our terrific employees, but also to the commitment and support that we receive as franchisees of the Denny's Corporation." "Winning this award in 2004 is indeed a great achievement for us," added Ali Tabrizizadeh. "Looking forward to 2005, our goal is to not only continue meeting and exceeding Denny's high standards by taking excellent care of our guests but also to expand our franchise business." A native of Virginia's Shenandoah Valley and renowned area businessman, Holtzman opened the Mt. Jackson Denny's restaurant in 1996. His restaurant posted a nearly seven percent year-to-date sales increase and is a winner of the corporate Four Diamond Award for exceeding Denny's operating standards. In addition to the Mt. Jackson Denny's, Holtzman also owns and operates Holtzman Oil Corp., with over 100 gasoline outlets (Chevron, BP, Exxon and Liberty), eight Burger Kings, 15 Blimpie Subs & Salads, eight Godfather Pizza outlets, and a truck stop adjacent to this Denny's. "We knew that 2004 was going to be an incredible year for us, and receipt of this wonderful award just confirms it," Holtzman said. "I feel very privileged to be part of a great team of people in Mt. Jackson that consistently upholds the highest standards for service and hospitality in our restaurant. Ernie Hagenmaier, manager of all food operations at Holtzman Oil Corp., and Tracie Wingfield, manager of the Mt. Jackson Denny's, are to be commended for making this happen. They really deserve all the credit. We are so pleased with our Denny's that we plan to build three more Denny's restaurants. One is already under construction." Denny's is America's largest full-service family restaurant chain with more than 1,600 company and franchise locations in the United States, Canada, Costa Rica, Guam, Mexico, New Zealand and Puerto Rico. The company's stock is traded under the ticker "DNY," and additional information is available on Denny's Web site at www.dennys.com.

December 17, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

More local and state lawmakers have joined the drive to stop utilities from shutting off power to delinquent customers during the winter. The issue came to the forefront after an Upstate woman died earlier this month of hypothermia when her electricity was turned off by Duke Power. Both Democratic and Republican legislators want to draft a measure designed to prevent any more deaths like that of Elizabeth Verdin. Police say the power to Verdin's place had been disconnected for six days when she died Dec. 11. Greenville Police found the 89-year-old woman on her living room floor two days later. "I'm pretty slow to tell businesses what they can and can't do," Sen.

Verne Smith, R-Greer, said. "But when it comes to life-threatening actions, we've got to act. I'm definitely planning to work on a piece of legislation that will help protect our people." Duke Power spokesman Tim Pettit says the company has stopped all disconnections until it finishes an internal review of its policies and the incident. Sen. Ralph Anderson, D-Greenville, said Upstate lawmakers will look at regulatory laws in other states and meet with utility interests as it considers legislation telling when utilities could cut off heat during the winter. "This may be a rallying point. It's bad that you have to have death to have a rallying point, but we're going to do something," Anderson said. Greenville City Councilman Garry Coulter said Friday he'd want the city's franchise agreement with Duke Power to include a measure stopping any customer over 65 from getting their power turned off. Duke Power's three-year agreement is up for renewal in the summer. Duke Power said it followed all procedures before disconnecting Verdin's power. The company sent a certified letter, brought information about deferred payments, knocked on her door and hung the disconnection notice on her door knob. The Public Service Commission agreed the power company followed proper guidelines. Smith, though, said Duke Power can't be excused "because their customer died." Duke Power officials will meet with lawmakers, Pettit said. The company, which serves 2 million customers in the Carolinas, has protective programs already in place.

December 20, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

The popularity of mobile telephones has emergency officials across the state working to update their systems to be able to pinpoint the location of callers. Currently, many 911 operators can determine only which cell phone tower is being used - sometimes miles from the caller. State officials are working with local governments to update their equipment and hope to be able to map the location of all wireless callers within 12 to 14 months. Being able to find a caller is "extremely important" to keep people safe, especially as cell phones grow more popular, said Ralph Inman, 911 director for Greenville County, one of the first to update its system. So far, about a third of the state's 46 counties are completely upgraded. South Carolina actually is slightly ahead of the rest of the nation, said Bobby Bowers, director of the state Office of Research and Statistics, which is helping counties map every street, back road and address. Bowers and 911 administrators say it is especially important in South Carolina to be able to map wireless calls because it's a tourist state. Many calls come from visitors who are in an unfamiliar place and can't give emergency crews directions to their locations. Between January and September, 1.2 million people in South Carolina called 911 from a mobile phone. In tourist-rich Horry County, nearly half of the 911 calls came from mobile phones. "We've got so much transitional population coming through here," Bowers said. "we should look out for their life and safety, too." Under federal law, wireless companies must make cell towers or phone able to send a signal that 911 centers can translate into a longitude and latitude coordinates. Part of the cost to upgrade local 911 technology and software is paid for by a fee charged to all wireless customers.

December 27, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

After a Christmas weekend of computer glitches and a rash of airline employees calling out sick, two major airlines are still scrambling to get thousands of people their luggage and return them home. It looks like the scrooge award this Christmas goes to U.S. Air and Delta's Comair. Friday, a computer glitch grounded more than a thousand flights leaving many more passengers stranded, spending Christmas in airports. Torey Mattison says, "It's very frustrating. You come in and you figure being on time and then find out flights are cancelled so it's a big mess right now. Big mess". In just an hour at G.S.P. this afternoon, the Mattison family was bounced around by three airlines. Finally, Delta issued them a ticket. "First flight was with us air, then sent us to united, then united sent us back to us air so its a lot of switching tickets so its a mess and a we're carrying a lot of luggage around. We're just trying to get to Paris that's all were trying to do", says Mattison. A computer glitch is arguably hard to blame, but what's upsetting many passengers is the lost luggage by U.S. Air. Leah Kazakis says, "Everything was fine flight wise. I got on ok but because our flight was two hours late to LaGuardia they put us on a different flight and my bag is stuck in Philly right now". The blame, being placed on who some are calling the biggest scrooges of them all. Employees of U.S. Air. An unusual amount of them called in sick this Christmas holiday. U.S. Air insists the call outs were not coordinated, but sources within the company say, those who called out are likely bitter about giving back contract benefits to keep the airline operating. After 9/11, U.S. Air received a billion dollars of our tax money to help pump some life back into

the industry. If the sick call outs were staged some taxpayers say, that's no way to thank them for that money. One traveler even said, "They've ruined everybody's Christmas".

Attachments



Crime

**PROGRAMS ADDRESSING PROBLEM/NEED
FOURTH QUARTER 2004**

Problem/Need: **CRIME**

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>PROGRAM</u>
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Saturdays (airs weekly)	8pm	COPS
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Monday – Friday at 12 midnight (60:00)

Monday – Friday at 3:30am (30:00)

DESCRIPTION: COPS follows law enforcement officers as they answer calls and deal with the subjects and victims involved in the complaints and crimes. (60:00)

Saturdays (airs weekly)	9pm	AMERICA'S MOST WANTED
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DESCRIPTION: AMERICA'S MOST WANTED is hosted by John Walsh. The show profiles fugitives and wanted criminals who are being sought by federal, state, or local authorities. The program gives viewers a phone number to call to provide information. (60:00)

Monday – Sunday	10:00 pm	CAROLINA'S MOST WANTED
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DESCRIPTION: The Most Wanted airs during the Ten O'clock News on various nights Monday thru Sunday. Each segment profiles locally wanted criminals and gives viewers a phone number to call to provide information. Each segment is 45 seconds.

October 1, 2004	10:00pm	The Ten O'clock News
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DESCRIPTION:

Starting today, the state Division of Motor Vehicles will fight identity theft and other crime by comparing new driver's license photos to digital images the DMV has collected for years and to mug shots of suspected terrorists. Facial recognition software going into use at 127 DMV offices around the state will compare facial features with the 16 million old license photos already in the agency's database to make sure every applicant's face and name match the previous record, DMV commissioner George Tatum said. "This is probably the most powerful tool and technology that we could use to protect the people of North Carolina" against people trying to steal their identity, he said. The roughly 8,000 photos taken by the DMV daily also will be compared to those on federal terrorist watch lists, Tatum said. North Carolina is one of seven states to employ facial recognition methods provided by Viisage Technology, a Billerica, Mass., company that also produces passports for the U.S. government and systems used by casinos to spot known cheaters, said John Dorr, the company's vice president of marketing. The other states are Rhode Island, Connecticut, Delaware, Illinois, Oklahoma and a sixth state that requests not to be identified out of security concerns, Dorr said. Viisage's software defines characteristics like the distance between eyes, the width of

the nose, the depth of eye sockets, and the location of cheekbones and the chin. The measured features are then converted into a numerical code that computers can compare to other photos. DMV supervisors are called in to compare data when the computer warns the same person holds or applied for IDs under different names, Tatum said. Photos collected during the day will be compared overnight to the terror list. Concerns that a DMV license photo might get innocent people suspected of terrorist connections have been around since airports first considered using facial recognition methods after Sept. 11, 2001, said Jennifer Rudinger, executive director of American Civil Liberties Union in North Carolina. "If we're going to have — and we will see mistakes with this — ... a high error rate, maybe it's not worth it," Rudinger said.

October 1, 2004 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTON:

A Gaffney woman has been stabbed to death in her apartment and police are searching for her killer. Keishana Knuckles, 21, was found in an upstairs bathroom of her apartment about 10 p.m. Thursday, police Capt. Chris Skinner said. Knuckles had been stabbed in the neck several times, Skinner said. Police were called by the woman's mother, who had become concerned when she was unable to contact her. There was no sign of forced entry in the apartment, Skinner said. No arrests have been made. An autopsy was planned Friday.

October 3, 2004 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION;

The two people charged with killing a retired Sara Lee executive will be tried in state court first. David W. Edens, 34, and Jennifer A. Holloway, 27, have been charged with kidnapping and murder in the death of Jim Cockman last month. They were charged with similar crimes in federal court, but U.S. Attorney J. Strom Thurmond Jr. decided to let state prosecutors try them first, prosecutor Bob Ariail said. Ariail expects to decide this week whether to seek the death penalty in the case, spokeswoman Marcia Barker said. Edens and Holloway kidnapped Cockman on Sept. 14, luring the 71-year-old businessman by offering to buy a vehicle he had for sale, authorities said. Cockman's body was found more than a week after he disappeared in a freezer near Sevierville, Tenn., where the two suspects live. An autopsy found Cockman's head had been wrapped in duct tape up to his eyes, suffocating him.

October 4, 2004 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

One man is dead and another is hospitalized after a shootout last night in Spartanburg . Police say it was all over a senseless argument. What's disturbing about this case is that all of the suspects are teenagers and the accused gunman is just 16 years old. Investigators say the 16-year-old was an acquaintance of the man he killed. In handcuffs 16-year-old Terrance Gist accused of murder and 17-year-old Marcel Foster, accused of accessory after the fact of murder, were hauled away to the county jail. Antonio McKinney was also charged and booked. Carolyn James, a neighbor in the apartment community, "It was like pow, pow, pow and I grabbed my little girl, went to steps and take cover." It happened last night at Hub City Court Apartments on Vanderbilt Road right next to James' apartment. Police say 34-year-old Robert Tennant was shot dead in the parking lot and a 20-year-old was shot in the leg in the crossfire. James was afraid her six year old daughter could have easily been shot. "I heard shooting again and I just stayed there for a moment, it scared me to death. I didn't know if bullets were coming through window or what. It was just scary," says James. Just across the way sits a playground where children should be allowed to play freely, but bullet holes on a stop sign serve as a constant reminder why they can't. Neighbors are shocked by last night's murder-- but not surprised. David Arrowood, a neighbor, says, "We don't come out when it gets close to dark. We don't come out. We just stay in the house because neighborhood is pretty dangerous." Even with Gist behind bars and the two others that allegedly helped him get away, folks here say its only a matter of time before something like this happens again. James, "It used to be safe, but lately crap like this has been coming around, different faces, you just don't, its not safe for kids, for me, its just bad." Gists' parents showed up at the city jail as he was being hauled away. They refused to talk with us. Police say the investigation is continuing and more charges are very likely.

October 5, 2004 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

Prosecutor Bob Ariail said Tuesday he plans to seek the death penalty against a Tennessee couple charged with kidnapping and killing a retired executive from the South Carolina Upstate. David Edens, 34, and Jennifer Holloway, 27, were charged earlier this month with murder and kidnapping in the death of Jim Cockman. The 71-year-old former Sara Lee executive was kidnapped Sept. 14 when he went to meet someone interested in buying a car he had for sale. He suffocated after his head was wrapped in duct tape up to his eyes. Cockman's body was found more than a week later in a freezer near Sevierville, Tenn., where Edens and Holloway live. Ariail said the fact that Cockman died after he was kidnapped makes the case eligible for the death penalty. "The total disregard for life and the brutality of the murder of Mr. Cockman makes this case one that warrants the death penalty," Ariail said. The two face similar federal charges, but U.S. Attorney J. Strom Thurmond Jr. decided to let state prosecutors try them first.

October 5, 2004 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

A court settlement has been reached that will give some relief to the approximately 8,000 people who put their life savings into Carolina Investors. They lost a combined 275 (m) million dollars. It may be small change in comparison to what they lost, but some investors say anything is better than nothing. Gene's Fine Foods has been a thriving Union landmark since 1965. 72-year-old owner, Gene Gregory, says "it was a dream and I worked awful hard to try to make this successful." Gregory took the money he made and invested it in carolina investors. Well over a million dollars, in fact he recalls the total down to the last penny. "\$1,396,695.49." Gregory believed that money would allow he and his wife to enjoy a well-deserved retirement. He says, "I had enough cash to draw good dividends and live good off of." But when Carolina Investors shut down, Gregory lost all his money and was forced to realize that retirement was no longer an option. "I'm here for the rest of my days." What was once Gene Gregory's life-long dream has now become his life-long burden. He says there is no settlement for just pennies on the dollar that could pay him enough to make up for all the money he's lost. A settlement was filed in federal court Tuesday morning, approving an 18-cent on the dollar return to investors. Gregory says, "I was counting on getting more than 18 percent..." but he adds, "I'm proud to get the 18 percent. That's better than nothing." But, Gregory says --even so-- he'll be working instead of enjoying retirement from now until the day he dies. "You don't know what it's like to go to bed one night and do just about what you want to do in life and wake up the next morning and it's gone." This past July, former Carolina Investors president and CEO, Larry Owen, pleaded guilty to multiple counts of securities fraud. In November, former South Carolina Lieutenant Governor, Earle Morris, Jr., will stand trial on 23-counts of securities fraud .for his role in the downfall of Carolina Investors.

October 6, 2004 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

Many newcomers to the Carolinas look for ways to better know their neighbors. There's always concern for safety. Here are two resources for identifying convicted sex offenders in South Carolina and North Carolina.
www.sled.state.sc.us/SLED/default.asp?Category=SCSO&Service=SCSO_01AHT/SOR;;sbi.jus.state.nc.us/DOJH

October 6, 2004 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

A man entrusted to make big decisions for a town in Spartanburg County is in big trouble. State investigators say a 27 year old man threatened to kill a woman and cut her body up. Charles Hornack is a councilman on the Duncan town board. It's a

position the young man just started after neighbors in the Town of Duncan voted at the end of June. Hornack lives at 115 Spartanburg Road and he was just starting up a new renovation business. Clyde Barnett, a Duncan Councilman, says, "Disappointed. Sorry it happened because he seemed like a very nice young man, friendly and I just hated to hear it". Barnett was surprised to learn what we told him was in Hornack's arrest warrant. It says Hornack made an unidentified woman "fear death, assault, kidnapping or bodily injury to herself...and that he made threats to kill the victim and cut up her body". The woman also accused Hornack of threatening her in public and refusing to let her leave. The description in the warrant is not how Barnett describes Hornack. "No its not, it's not at all", says Barnett. But now board members have to push their personal impressions of Hornack to the side and address an issue they are afraid may hurt the board's image, and they're also left wondering what will happen to his position once Hornack is released from jail. Barnett says, "Yes I am very concerned because of a situation like than on our council because we had a very good council last four years, we've worked real good together". According to state law, the only way Hornack can be removed from the board is if the Governor steps in. That likely wont be determined until Hornack has his day in court. The next board meeting is next Monday. Hornack is charged with stalking.

October 18, 2004 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

A woman was killed and her 3-year-old son wounded after gunfire hit the car as the family was driving on Interstate 20. Stephanie Dover, 20, of Columbia died at a hospital at 3 a.m. Sunday from a gunshot wound to the head, said Richland County Chief Deputy Coroner Ted Kennedy. Dover's fiance Grover "Gene" Derrick Jr. told police he was traveling east on I-20 early Sunday morning with Dover and their two sons when someone in a pickup truck behind them began firing shots at their car near the Broad River Road bridge, according to a police report. Derrick slowed down, letting the truck pass. He then began to follow the truck until someone inside started firing again, according to the report. After pulling off at the Fairfield Road exit, the man realized his fiancée had been shot and stopped to call 911, according to the report. A bullet grazed the leg of their son, who was treated and released from the hospital Sunday morning. Investigators have not determined where the shooting took place, who fired the shots or why, sheriff's Sgt. Chris Cowan said.

October 20, 2004 10:00pm The Ten O'clock news

DESCRIPTION:

He helped with projects around the neighborhood and helped neighbors pay some of their bills. Now a 65-year-old Pelzer man is accused of having sex with one of the little boys he helped and investigators say there may be more victims. The seven year old's accusations in court documents are graphic. The details disgusting. Disgusting enough for the judge to deny the suspect bail and keep him locked up here until court. Lionel Curtis Junior is the man investigators say may have sexually abused more than one victim. So what you're about to read is very important: Garland Major, Jr., Senior Investigator for Anderson County, says, "We don't want parents to question children. If they suspect something may have gone on, please notify the sheriff's office. We have interviewers that are trained to interview children and we'll take care of that." Investigators spent much of Wednesday removing evidence from Curtis' home on One River Street in Pelzer. They seized children's games and toys. A big red flag for detectives. They say Curtis had children over all the time, and let them spend the night. "When a 65-year-old man has no children or grandchildren that come to visit, with these numerous items its a grooming type pattern," says Major. The seven-year-old making the accusations says it all happened in Curtis' home over a two year period. Twice the child accuses Curtis of having sex with him when he spent the night. On two other instances, the young boy says he had to perform a sex act on Curtis. Heather Holcombe says, "He's helped my son with projects in the yard. My sons never been in his home but I can't say anything bad about him at all." Holcombe is Curtis' neighbor. She's pretty wound up about the F.B.I. and SLED being their all day Wednesday. But she says she's not worried about her eleven-year-old son because she always keeps a close eye on him. "I never let him go to visit. Everything that's done is by my side and in my view," says Holcombe. If you have any information about this case or you think your child may be a victim, investigators certainly want to hear from you. The number to call is 260-4400. Curtis is charged with two counts of criminal sexual conduct with a minor and three counts of a lewd act on a minor.

October 22, 2004 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

Carbon Monoxide and bullets are all part of the puzzle being pieced together in the case of Randall Martin Pruitt. He was found dead September 13th in his home on Brockman McClimon Road in Greer. Burned pieces of metal, clothes on the line and a scorched mattress are a reminder that 51-year-old Randall Martin Pruitt once lived at a mobile home on Brockman McClimon Road. Fire engulfed his home last September and now investigators believe someone torched his place to cover up a homicide. James Donovan moved to the area about eight years ago. "I just never expected anything like this in this neighborhood," said Donovan. Now that investigators are looking for a killer it makes him uneasy. "Well I'm going to lock my doors," commented Donovan. Spartanburg County Coroner, Jim Burnett, says Pruitt kept several rounds of ammunition inside his home and an autopsy shows that a bullet went through his head, but the question was how. "During the fire did bullets go off in the fire that caused this injury or was an injury caused from a bullet fired from a firearm," said Burnett. The coroner said because of the badly decomposed body he decided to call in Forensic Anthropologist, Rick Snow. He wanted to get the correct ruling on Pruitt's death. "We have a case here that is involving something I can contribute as a Forensic Anthropologist," said Snow. Snow's expertise is with skeletal remains. He studies bones and uses his findings to identify bodies or the cause of death. He determined that someone shot Randall Puritt in the head. If you have any information in this case you are asked to call (864) 58- CRIME.

October 23, 2004 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

A Simpsonville woman has been arrested and accused of trying to hire a hit man to kill her husband for \$10,000, police said. Laura Marie Overton, 25, was charged with two counts of solicitation to murder her husband, Russell Job Overton, Simpsonville Police Chief Charles Reece said. Overton was arrested at her home at 5 p.m. Friday, a few hours after police said she met with an undercover police officer posing as a hit man and another man she allegedly approached about killing her husband. The other man is cooperating with authorities, Reece said. Police were first contacted by Overton's husband Oct. 19, Reece said. He said the man Laura Overton is charged with trying to hire told her husband about the alleged plot. The police chief would not say how the men knew each other. The meeting Friday afternoon focused on how much the killing would cost and how it would be done, the police chief said.

October 24, 2004 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

Monday marks a decade since Susan Smith drowned her two little boys in a Union County Lake. The unimaginable killings captured national attention and tried the emotions of the Smith family and the Union community. Today, three-year-old Michael Smith would be a teenager and his younger brother Alex would just be finishing up elementary school. Instead, the two lie lifeless in a white casket. Their murderer is the same person who gave them life. In 1994, Susan Smith told police her Mazda was stolen and with it, her two children. But nine days later, Smith revealed the real story. In the middle of the night she let her car roll into John D. Long Lake . With Michael and Alex strapped in their car seats. This time every year the horror and emotions of this senseless murder resurface. Susan Smith's mother repeatedly defends her daughter. In a book published in 2000-- Susan Smith's mother describes Susan's life of deep depression-- dealing with her father's suicide and sexual abuse by her stepfather, all culminating into a desperate escape at the expense of her two helpless children. The boys' father, David Smith lives in Spartanburg County and has two children, a three-year-old girl and a baby boy. In an interview with a state newspaper, Smith says he frequently visits Michael and Alex's gravesite and what happened almost ten years ago

to the day cannot just be "wiped off the calendar." Susan Smith is serving a life term in state prison. She won't be eligible for parole until 2024.

October 27, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

A bullet to the chest ends what police call a sexual affair, after a plan to get revenge turns deadly.

This story is unfortunate from every angle. Two coworkers reportedly cheating on their spouses-- now their kids, the rest of their family and the public know all about it after it appears one of the people involved finally had enough and tried to take matters in his own hands. Police say 36 year old Mike Cikanowick was on a mission Tuesday morning. Armed with pepper spray, a stun gun, handcuffs and a rope it appeared as though he was going to abduct, maybe even torture 47 year old David Devita of Powdersville. Police say Devita was having an affair with Cikanowick's wife. Neighbors in the neighborhood actually say that's a relief. Crystal Emory, a neighbor, says, "In a way it made me feel good because it wasn't a random act. At least it was isolated so that was the good thing to me and not having to worry about break-ins". But Cikanowick's plan to get revenge quickly failed with the pull of a trigger. Police say he pepper sprayed Devita's seven year old daughter. Devita then dashed for his bedroom, grabbed his pistol and shot Cikanowick in the chest; leaving investigators with a body on their hands. "You think of this as a quiet neighborhood. Nothing ever happens around here so it's just very surprising", says Emory. Devita and Cikanowick's wife worked together at an insurance company in Greenville. So far investigators aren't going to charge Devita with any crime.

November 1, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

Police are looking for a man they say shot two teenagers at a Halloween Party at the Palmetto Expo Center early Sunday morning. A 14-year-old victim was shot in the back and a 15-year-old victim was shot in the neck, said Greenville police Capt. W.J. Harper. The two were being treated at Greenville Memorial Hospital. They were not identified by police and their conditions were unavailable. Harper said the shooting occurred during a fight in the parking lot just after midnight Saturday.

November 1, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

Nearly one year after four workers were found shot to death in a bike shop, no suspects have been identified and family members still wrestle with grief. The Spartanburg County sheriff's office has offered a \$25,000 reward for information leading to an arrest and released sketches of potential witnesses and photos of a vehicles that were at Superbike Motorsports on Nov. 6, 2003, when the workers were found dead. Still, no arrests have been made. "I want whoever did this to look into the eyes of their 2-year-old or 4-year-old or 42-year-old," said Robin Lucas, whose husband, 29-year-old Brian Lucas was found dead at the store. "How can they not say something? They have to have said something to somebody. This is not something you can live with and hide." Lucas was the store's service manager. Shop owner Scott Dean Ponder, 30; bookkeeper Beverly Guy, 52; and mechanic Chris Sherbert, 26, were also found dead from multiple gunshot wounds. Family members continue to talk about the killings publicly, hoping that frequent reminders will break someone's silence. "Tell us something. Give us closure," Lucas said. "That's not just something people talk about. We need it." A memorial service is planned Saturday, the anniversary of the deaths. About 75 deputies will canvass the community that day handing out flyers about the case, said sheriff's Lt. Ron Gahagan. Melissa Ponder, wife of the shop's owner, said she laments the many moments that her husband cannot share with their son. Scotty Ponder was born about seven months after his father was found dead. "I talk to Scott every day," Melissa Ponder said. "I know he's up there listening, laughing or telling me what I should have done. A day does not pass that I don't cry." Ponder said the more attention that can be brought to the murders, the more likely someone is to come forward. "That's just the way I have to look at the unanswered questions." At her home in Gaffney, Lucas juggles a work schedule and cares for her sons, Zack, 2, and Aaron, 4. "We were always 50 percent in what had to be done. It was not like I did the housework, cared for the kids and he did the yard work. We split it," she said. Now she struggles with Aaron's inquisitiveness about exactly where his father is. "At night, he talks to Brian. He tells him what happened during the day. We pick out the brightest star in the heavens and just talk," she said. Terry Guy lost his wife, Beverly, and stepson, Scott Ponder, in the shootings. Guy said he is optimistic that the killer or killers will be caught and punished. "Oh, they'll be punished whether here on earth or one day," he said.

November 1, 2004

10:0pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

The trial of a man charged with dogfighting has been delayed two weeks and the site of the trial moved from Charleston to Greenwood. David Tant, who faces 41 charges of criminal animal fighting and one charge of assault and battery with intent to kill, will go to trial Nov. 15, according to the S.C. attorney general's office. State prosecutors allege that Tant is the nation's No. 2 breeder of pit bulls, the primary dog used in animal fighting. Tant denies any wrongdoing. Tant had sought a delay in the trial, as well as a change of venue, the latter because of pretrial publicity, said William Frick, the assistant attorney general prosecuting the case. The state agreed to both changes while it awaited test results of a booby-trapped gun fired near Tant's property last spring. A surveyor says he was shot with the gun.

November 3, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

Almost eight hours of testimony, and just one witness on the stand. It's a slow start to what is expected to be at least a three week trial. USC law professor and expert witness Gregory Adams tells jurors that if Earle Morris, Junior knew one thing, and told investors another, that he's guilty of securities fraud. Adams says, "if the truth is he doesn't know, he's not sure, but he states it as a positive fact ... that's a misrepresentation." Adams was the first in a long list of state witnesses to take the stand against the former Lieutenant Governor. During Tuesday's opening statements, both the state and the defense told jurors that Morris' personal character and reputation are key to this case. Sherry Lydon with the SC Attorney General's Office says, "these companies needed the defendant because he lended credibility. The investors however simply needed the defendant to tell the truth." Morris' defense attorney, Joel Collins, countered that Morris was an upstanding man with a distinguished past, and that he didn't simply wake up one day and decide to defraud people and cause them to lose money. In today's testimony, the prosecution says Morris knew that Carolina Investors was on rocky financial ground in the months -- and even years -- leading up to its closure on March, 21, 2003. It's a contention that the state's first witness backed up with testimony. prof. Gregory Adams says, "[Carolina Investors] upstreamed the money every single day [to parent company HomeGold Financial, Inc.]. [Carolina Investors] would add money every business day until that week that they crashed." Adams also testified that Morris knew Carolina Investors was not the proverbial "Pearl of the Upstate" .like company brochures claimed. Adams says "that's the exact opposite of what Carolina Investors is, which is a highly risky investment." Former Carolina Investors president Larry Owen pleaded guilty to multiple counts of securities fraud in July. He's expected to testify against Morris by the end of the week. Trial resumes at 9:30 Thursday morning.

November 3, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

A brother and sister who sent junk e-mail to millions of America Online customers were convicted Wednesday in the nation's first felony prosecution of Internet spam distributors. Jurors recommended that Jeremy Jaynes, 30, be sentenced to nine years in prison and fined Jessica DeGroot, 28, \$7,500 after convicting them of three counts each of sending e-mails with fraudulent and untraceable routing information. A third defendant, Richard Rutkowski, 30, was acquitted after deliberations of 1 1/2 days. All three defendants live in the Raleigh, N.C., area. Prosecutors compared Jaynes and DeGroot to modern-day snake oil salesmen who use the Internet to peddle junk like a "FedEx refund processor" that supposedly allowed people to earn \$75 an hour working from home. In one month alone, Jaynes received 10,000 credit card orders, each for \$39.95, for the processor. "This was just a case of fraud," said prosecutor Gene Fishel. "This is a snake oil salesman in a new format." Prosecutor Russell McGuire said Jaynes amassed a net wealth of \$24 million peddling worthless products like the refund processor and other products like a "penny stock picker" and an Internet history eraser. "He's been successful ripping people off all these years," McGuire said. Prosecutors had asked the jury to impose a maximum sentence of 15 years in prison for Jaynes, and to consider some amount of jail time for his sister, whom they acknowledged was less culpable. Defense lawyers asked jurors to spare the defendants prison terms. David Oblon, representing Jaynes, argued that it was inappropriate for prosecutors to seek what he called an excessive punishment, given that this is the first prosecution under the Virginia law. He also noted that his client, a North Carolina resident, would have been unaware of the Virginia law. Oblon called the jury's recommendation of nine years in prison shocking. "Nine years is absolutely outrageous when you look at what we do to people convicted of crimes like robbery and rape," Oblon said. When Jaynes and DeGroot are formally sentenced in February, Circuit Court Judge Thomas Horne will have the option of reducing the jury's sentence or leaving it intact. He cannot increase it. Horne also has not yet ruled on an earlier motion asking that the cases be dismissed. He said during the trial that he had a hard time allowing the prosecution of DeGroot and Rutkowski to go forward to the jury. The attorney Oblon said Jaynes "is convinced of his innocence" and he expects the conviction will eventually be set aside. Even if Horne refuses to set aside the verdict, Oblon can appeal and challenge the new law on constitutional grounds. The defendants have said the law is an unconstitutional infringement of free speech. Virginia prosecuted the case under a law that took effect last year which bars people from sending bulk e-mail that is unsolicited and masks its origin. AOL, which is based in Dulles, Va., is a unit of New York-based Time Warner Inc. Numerous AOL employees testified during the two-week

trial, and Oblon complained that prosecutors often seemed to be prosecuting the case at AOL's bidding. He noted that Virginia Attorney General Jerry Kilgore announced indictments in the case last year at a press conference at AOL's Dulles headquarters. "It appears at times that AOL was basically taking over the criminal prosecution," Oblon said. Attorney General Jerry W. Kilgore called Virginia's anti-spam law the toughest in America. "Spam is a nuisance to millions of Americans, but it is also a major problem for businesses large and small because the thousands of unwanted e-mails create havoc as they attempt to conduct business," Kilgore said in a statement. "Spam is a nuisance to millions of Americans, but it is also a major problem for businesses large and small because the thousands of unwanted e-mails create havoc as they attempt to conduct business," Kilgore said in a statement.

November 4, 2004 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

She fought for abused children and touched many lives. Now a community is mourning the murder of a South Carolina beauty queen. 26 Leslie Mazzara was crowned Miss. Williamston in 2002 and many people say she represented the small town very well. Mixed with sadness are fond memories of a young beautiful woman who lived a very full life. By all accounts 26 year old Leslie was more than a beauty queen—she fought against some of the ugliest crimes committed, crimes against our children. Earlier this year Leslie packed her stuff and moved to California to continue her crusade against child abuse and make it big in showbiz. But Monday morning it all came to an end when police found her body in a California home. Her body was stabbed several times. One roommate was killed, another escaped. Those who knew Leslie say the double homicide is unimaginable. A Memorial Fund was set up in Leslie's name at the Calvary Home for Children. If you'd like to make a donation write to: Stephanie Carter/Leslie Mazzar Memorial Fund. 511 West Whitner Street Anderson, South Carolina 29624

November 5, 2004 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

A former officer of Carolina Investors testified Thursday that chairman Earle Morris was present at meetings when auditors warned about the company's weakening financial state. Morris, 76, is on trial, charged with 22 counts of securities fraud in connection with the failure of Carolina Investors and its parent company HomeGold, which cost about 12,000 South Carolina investors \$278 million. Auditor Garry Rank's testimony was intended to refute Morris' defense that he didn't know about the company's condition when he told investors that everything was OK. Rank testified that Morris attended a March 14, 2002, meeting in which auditors spelled out HomeGold's financial distress. According to Rank, Morris said at the end of the meeting that "they had faced tough, difficult circumstances in the past and they would face this matter." The prosecutors suggested this was proof Morris knew his company was in trouble. His defense team, however, said it proved Morris didn't understand the depth of the trouble. Also testifying Thursday was investor Richard Aiken of Pickens, who said he asked Morris in that same month of the auditor's meeting how the company was doing. HomeGold's stock price had dropped 60 percent and Aiken was getting advice from friends to get out. But Aiken said Morris told him Carolina Investors was "in the best shape it had ever been in, things were as good as gold." "I decided to leave my money where it was," he said. "I thought everything was safe, so I didn't move a thing." He even added an IRA of close to \$10,000 with Carolina Investors. "I trusted him," he said of Morris, "and I knew he was there." Former Carolina Investors president Larry Owen also was charged with 22 counts of fraud in the case. He pleaded guilty just after his trial started in July and will be sentenced later. He is expected to testify against Morris.

November 8, 2004 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

A 23-year-old Anderson man was shot and killed early Sunday morning at a birthday party. Jonathan Gambrell died a few doors down from his home at an apartment complex after he was shot three times in the chest, said Anderson County Coroner Greg Shore. Capt. Dale McCard of the Anderson County Sheriff's Office said deputies were looking for 18-year-old Braxton Bell of Anderson. Arrest warrants charge him with murder and possession of a firearm during a violent crime. Bell is a black male, 5 feet, 11 inches tall and 170 pounds, according to warrants. A group in a burgundy Ford pulled up to the apartment a little after midnight Sunday looking for the party, Shore said. An argument broke out at the party, and shots were fired just outside the door, Shore said. A man jumped back in the vehicle, which left at a high rate of speed, Shore said.

November 8, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

Former Carolina Investors Chairman Earle Morris "was on the outside looking in" when it came to the company's finances, the president of the Upstate investment firm said three days after pleading guilty to securities fraud. Former president Larry Owen was back on the stand Sunday, being cross examined by Morris' lawyers on statements Owen made in a jail interview. Some of them contradict Owen's testimony for prosecutors Saturday and seem to support Morris' contention that he was just repeating what he had been told when he told investors the company was in good shape. More than 8,000 investors lost \$278 million when the Upstate firm went under last spring. Morris is standing trial on 22 counts of securities fraud. Prosecutors said he lied to Carolina Investors depositors about the company's financial health. If convicted, the 76-year-old former lieutenant governor and comptroller general could face a maximum of about 200 years in prison and nearly \$1 million in fines. There is no minimum sentence. Owen pleaded guilty to similar charges in July and offered to help prosecutors. Three days after Owen was sent to jail, Morris' lawyer Joel Collins interviewed the former company president. Owen told Collins that he expected to testify against several executives of HomeGold, Carolina Investors' parent company, but not Morris. "I couldn't testify against him. I couldn't say anything to hurt Earle," Owen said. On Saturday, Owen testified that he and Morris knew Carolina Investors was in bad shape five years before the company collapsed in the biggest bankruptcy in South Carolina history. During cross examination, Owen admitted he was suggesting that Morris was not told how bad the financial situation was at Carolina or HomeGold. That argument is a central part of Morris' defense. But Owen also tried to smooth over the contradictions in his testimony. "The time you interviewed me was the third day after I was incarcerated," Owen said. "My mind and body were in shock. I'd been sleeping on concrete. "You'd probably have gotten some different answers if you talked to me two weeks later." Collins had to fight to get the interview into evidence. Assistant Attorney General Sherri Lydon objected, calling the defense move "underhanded." Lydon said a transcript was only recently provided to prosecutors and the original tape wasn't given to them until late Saturday. Collins said the jailhouse interview with Owen is "the heart of our defense of Mr. Morris." While Circuit Judge James Johnson did not allow the entire transcript to be entered into evidence, he allowed enough of Owen's words to let Collins make his point. Also Sunday, Owen testified that former HomeGold President Jack Sterling once altered Carolina Investors board records. After he was arrested, Owen said he found several vehicles Carolina Investors was paying for even though the only one he knew about was his Ford Explorer. When his testimony finished Sunday, Owen went back to the Greenville County jail. Owen has at least one more day on the stand, but will remain in jail at least until prosecutors think he has helped enough with the criminal investigation into the collapse of Carolina Investors and HomeGold. Morris and Owen's wife Anne, a former Carolina Investors vice president, are the only other executives currently facing charges, although prosecutors say the investigation into the company's collapse continues.

November 8, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

An 18-year-old man has been arrested in the shooting death of a man at a birthday party here earlier this week. Braxton Bell of Anderson was arrested at his home around noon Monday and charged with murder, sheriff's Capt. Dale McCard said. Officers still were trying to determine the motive, McCard said. Investigators say Bell and the victim, 23-year-old Jonathan Gambrell, had argued in the past about a woman they both knew. Gambrell was shot in the parking lot of an apartment complex on

Anderson's northeast side early Sunday, when he and about 10 other people gathered for a resident's birthday party. Coroner Greg Shore said an autopsy completed Monday showed Gambrell was shot three times in the chest with a small-caliber handgun. Officers found a handgun thrown into a wooded area about a half-mile from where the shooting occurred, McCard said.

November 9, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

Prosecutors in the securities fraud trial of former Carolina Investors Chairman Earle Morris appear to be ending their case with those who say Morris hurt them the most. The last witnesses for the state were more investors. Each one said Tuesday they were ready to take their money out of Carolina Investors in the months before the company collapsed, and each time Morris persuaded them to keep their money in the firm. "He put his hand on my shoulder to reassure me that everything is solid. He said it is as solid as the floor we're standing on," investor John Turpin said. "Like a dummy, I put \$10,000 more in." By spring 2003, Carolina Investors shut its doors, leaving Turpin and more than 8,000 investors out \$278 million. Prosecutors say Morris knew Carolina Investors was in bad shape and lied to investors so they would keep their money in. The 76-year-old former lieutenant governor is charged with 22 counts of securities fraud. If convicted, he could face a maximum of about 200 years in prison and nearly \$1 million in fines. There is no minimum sentence. Morris' lawyers say he was just a figurehead and was duped by executives of Carolina Investors and its parent company HomeGold who didn't tell him how bad things were. The final investor testifying was Charles Murphy, who went to Carolina Investors to pull out his money to pay off his house a few weeks before the company went under in March 2003. But Morris talked with him a while, convincing him to leave his money in the firm. "Little did I know on the 21st they were going to close and take everything I owned and leave me with nothing," said Murphy, who now drives a school bus and mows fairways and roadsides to make ends meet. Morris' lawyers are expected to start presenting their case later this week. But the jury got a preview this weekend when defense attorney Joel Collins cross examined former Carolina Investors President Larry Owen. Owen told prosecutors both he and Morris knew Carolina Investors was in bad shape five years before the company went under in the biggest bankruptcy in South Carolina history. But during cross examination, Owen admitted he told Collins that Morris "was like a man on the outside looking in" as the company collapsed, according to an interview with Owen at the Greenville County jail three days after the former company president pleaded guilty to similar securities fraud charges.

November 10, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

Eleven female employees were arrested and face prostitution charges for performing sex acts on customers for money after police raided two massage parlors here Wednesday. Six of the women were working at Lady Luck Spa, where three men were getting massages when police raided. One man was arrested and charged with solicitation of prostitution, authorities said. "We checked every room and let people get dressed," said Lt. Jason Dalton of the York County drug unit conducting the raids. "Everyone was cooperative." Five other women were arrested at Gold Hill Spa, police said. They had no customers at the time. The charges carry fines up to \$200 or 30 days in jail for the women, police said. The two spas' owners, who investigators are still trying to identify, could face similar prostitution charges. Police said they received several complaints from residents, including some from wives claiming their husbands were visiting the spas. Undercover agents then found employees were collecting at least \$100 for half-hour sessions that included offers of sex acts.

November 16, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

After more than a week of silence, Napa homicide investigators released a few more details Monday as to who killed two women in their home in the early hours of Nov. 1. According to a press release, forensic analysis of blood at the scene identified the killer of Leslie Ann Mazzara, a former beauty queen, and Adriane Insogna, a civil

engineer, as a male who was injured in commission of the crimes. Authorities said local residents to be on the look out for a male with injuries consistent with a struggle -- cuts, scratching or bruises. The mysterious killings of the two young women has shaken the quiet wine country community and left family and friends devastated. "This has been so shocking," said Jeff Johnson, superintendent of the Calistoga Unified Joint School District. "It really has a ripple effect throughout the community." Mazzara and Isogna were killed in their home on a quiet Napa street on Nov. 1. Police had been called to the house by a third roommate who was awakened by sounds of a struggle upstairs. The killings were the first murders in three years in Napa, a small city about 50 miles north of San Francisco. "We don't deal with crimes like murder that often," said Police Cmdr. Jeff Troendly. "When it happens it really sparks anxiety levels. It causes fear and understandably so." About 500 residents turned out for two community meetings held by police a few days after the killing to talk about their concerns. Skyler Steiner, a Napa resident who was passing through the women's neighborhood, said he was taken aback when he heard about the killings. "It's crazy," said Steiner, a registered nurse who grew up in Napa. "Nothing like this has happened." Friends of the young women, both 26, remembered them as overachievers who worked hard and were well liked. Johnson was the principal of Calistoga High School when Insogna was a student there and is a family friend. He recalled that Insogna had overcome serious injuries in a car accident at age 16 to pursue her dream of becoming an engineer. She ultimately won a scholarship that helped her study engineering at Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, where she graduated in 2000. "After the accident, it took a while for her to catch her equilibrium, but she just was a hard worker," said Johnson. "What comes to mind more than anything else for Adriane was she was extremely determined," he said. "She knew that she wanted to go into engineering and started taking classes and working through drafting and mechanical drawing and then on to architecture. When she was accepted to Cal Poly in the civil engineering department, it really was in my estimation a remarkable feat." Along with the hard work came a pleasant demeanor, he said. "She had just a wonderful sense of humor, she always had a smile. She was just a very pleasant, happy, strong, determined young woman." Mazzara, who was memorialized in her hometown of Anderson, S.C., also was being remembered fondly. "She was a lovely young lady that just had a tremendous heart," said Crystal Whitfield of the Calvary Home for Children in Anderson, which Mazzara had supported. Mazzara had competed in the Miss South Carolina pageant two years ago and had moved to California looking for opportunities in show business, according to friends. She got a job at the Niebaum-Coppola Winery in Rutherford that has been restored by director Francis Ford Coppola. During her reign as Miss Williamston, a title she won in 2002, Mazzara had championed the cause of abused children. She was particularly struck by the death of a 4-year-old girl who had been severely abused and worked to help pass a law that required reports of suspected child abuse be recorded to help officials detect patterns of mistreatment. One of the things the little girl had suffered included being locked in a small bathroom. Mazzara taped out a similar area at a local mall and sat inside the space to raise awareness of child abuse and funds for the Calvary home, Whitfield said. When she heard about Mazzara's murder, "I was shocked, just really hurt to hear that," Whitfield said. "Since then, I've actually received a number of phone calls from friends and family that have conveyed the same reaction to us, just real shock and disappointment." In Calistoga, Insogna's death left residents similarly stunned. "Adriane touched a lot of folks," said Johnson. "She was just the type of person that you are very proud to know."

November 16, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

Fredrick Evins will fight for his life this week after he was found guilty of raping and killing a convenience store clerk nearly two years ago. A Spartanburg County jury took less than two hours Monday to convict Evins of murder, kidnapping, criminal sexual conduct and grand larceny in the death of Rhonda Ward, whose nude body was found in an orchard in February 2003. Evins showed little emotion as the jury verdict was read. Prosecutors want Evins to be put to death, and the penalty phase of the trial is set to begin Tuesday afternoon. Evins took the stand in his own defense Sunday, saying he killed Ward in self-defense, stabbing her after she attacked him with a knife after a sexual encounter in the orchard. Prosecutors pointed out Ward was stabbed 12 times and the story Evins told on the stand didn't match what he told investigators after he was arrested. Evins also is charged in the death of Damaris Huff, whose body was found in a Spartanburg park in September 2002. She had been strangled. A trial date in that case has not been set.

November 16, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

Former Carolina Investors board chairman Earle Morris said Monday that he does not think his background as the former chief financial officer for the state boosted the confidence of investors in the company. Morris, testifying on his own behalf in his securities fraud trial, said he did not know if his background as a former state comptroller general and lieutenant and other qualifications were "impressive" to investors. "I think that the rate that was paid would be the more impressive factor," said Morris, who for 12 years was chairman of the company which offered investors up to an 8.5 percent return. Morris, 76, is charged with 22 counts of securities fraud in the collapse of Carolina Investors. The bankruptcy, which cost more than 8,000 investors more than \$278 million, is the largest in South Carolina history. Prosecutors say investors kept their money in Carolina Investors because of their faith in Morris' statements that Carolina Investors was financially secure. Investors believed Morris because of his extensive financial background and his stellar reputation in his native Upstate, even though Morris knew the company was in trouble, according to the lawyers with the state attorney general's office. Morris did his best Monday to help his defense. He said he was often on the outside looking in, particularly when it came to the financial status of HomeGold, the parent company of Carolina Investors that was borrowing money from its subsidiary to stay afloat. Morris said he only repeated to investors what he had been told by HomeGold officers: That the company was fine. Investors have told state investigators that Morris said the company was "solid as the Rock of Gibraltar." Prosecutors said Morris had reviewed financial documents about HomeGold and should have known the company was not solid. But Morris said such documents were not "my business." "It was not my job to keep up with that," Morris said, adding that he had no fiscal or administrative duties at HomeGold. Morris said he relied on HomeGold officers, not on the financial documents. "I don't suppose any financial report shows everything," he said. "The answers I gave were those I received from the parent company." Morris spent most of the day on the stand Monday facing questions from his own attorneys. Prosecutors questioned him for about 35 minutes before the judge dismissed the jury to hear defense lawyers objections to questions about newspaper editorials written by Morris. He is scheduled to retake the stand Tuesday morning.

November 16, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

The trial of a man prosecutors call the No. 2 breeder of fighting pit bulls in the United States will go on after a judge ruled police had permission to search David Tant's land. Tant was charged with 41 counts of dogfighting and assault and battery with intent to kill after authorities said a railroad company surveyor was shot in the leg after tripping a trap on Tant's Charleston County property in April. Officers investigating the shooting said they found a number of dogs who appeared to be injured fighting with other animals. More officers went to Tant's land later and found treadmills and cattle prods used to train the fighting dogs, according to arrest warrants. Tant said he is innocent of all the charges. Tant faces up to five years in prison and a \$5,000 fine for each count of dogfighting and up to 20 years in prison on the assault charge. The lawyers expect to argue more motions Tuesday before testimony begins. In one of them, Tant's lawyer, Dale Cobb, plans to argue the state's dogfighting law is too broad and vague. And if the trial goes on, Tant will say the evidence collected on his land were obsolete relics of when Tant used to fight dogs, Cobb said outside of court. Pretrial publicity prompted Circuit Court Judge Markley Dennis to move Tant's trial from Charleston to Greenwood. The trial opened Monday with Cobb arguing the first search of Tant's land after the shooting was improper. If he won the motion, it would eliminate nearly all of the prosecution's evidence. Tant took the stand during the hearing, saying he never gave deputies permission to come on his property. But several officers said Tant never gave any indication law officers should stay away. "He went to a locked gate and unlocked it with law enforcement officers in tow," said William Frick, a prosecutor for the state attorney general's office. Dennis ruled the search was legal because the area where the shooting took place was a crime scene and officers had a right to make sure they were safe. The judge also ruled jurors will not be told that 47 dogs taken from Tant likely will be put to death if he is found guilty. The case is the first to come from a dogfighting task force created by Attorney General Henry McMaster. Animal groups have offered to help pay the cost of investigators for the new unit.

November 18, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

Former Lt. Gov. Earle Morris was found guilty Thursday of 22 counts of securities fraud for telling investors to keep their money in a company although he knew it was failing. The jury deliberated less than six hours before convicting Morris of lying to investors when he was chairman of Pickens-based Carolina Investors. Carolina Investors went under in the spring of 2003 in the largest bankruptcy in South Carolina history. More than 8,000 investors lost \$278 million. They will get about 18 cents back for each dollar invested as part of a civil settlement. Morris, 76, faces a maximum of five years in prison for each count and nearly \$1 million in fines. There is no minimum sentence. The politician who also served for years as the state's comptroller general had claimed that he was kept in the dark about the company's financial condition and was only telling shareholders what others in the company were telling him.

November 18, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

A pregnant woman is on the run after allegedly scamming two couples that wanted to adopt her child. Police say the pregnant woman and her boyfriend took thousands of dollars in food and medical bills-- only to skip town, weeks before giving birth. Police and one of the couples say the 39 year old didn't just change her mind about giving up the baby for adoption. She knew what she was doing, leading emotionally vulnerable couples who have no choice but to adopt a child, hang out to dry. Kerri, one of the victims, says "Its like someone's died. I've shut the door to the nursery. You have to say goodbye to that child. That specific child. That baby". For four years, Kerri and Joel have been trying to adopt a child. Medically they can't have one of their own. Finally, early this summer a match had been made "You get very excited because this time you're waiting to hear them and its nerve-racking to because you want them to like you", says Kerri. The couple was introduced to 39 year old Gabriela Duarte. They hit it off so well, Duarte invited Kerri to the baby's first ultrasound. That's when she learned the child they had been waiting years for, was a boy. Kerri and Joel grew so attached they even made his middle name, Jude. Kerri says, "And the pictures are very clear of his little face it was like something happened that day in my heart for him and it was like he became, he became ours". For months, Kerri and Joel say they pumped out thousands of dollars for Jude's medical bills, food, rent and even paid for some of Duarte's car repairs. It turns out, police say, Duarte was also taking money from another couple in Charleston that was promised the same baby. Joel says, "You always try and feel like I can do this, this is going to be great but we have to hold in the back of our mind that they may change their mind at the end". But police say Duarte didn't change her mind at the end. In fact, she never intended to give her baby to Joel and Kerri, or the Charleston couple. She basically scammed them to get what she wanted. Now Gabriella is nowhere to be found. They're also looking for her husband, Sergio Pasarini. He's five foot eight, 160 pounds, in shape. Has a bushy mustache, with a pony tail, and an olive complexion. They were last seen driving in an early 90's teal/green colored ford explorer with expired Florida tags. Kerri and Joel say it isn't likely they'll still try to adopt Jude. But they're not giving up, trying to find another child for adoption. If you have any information call CrimeStoppers at 23-crime.

November 18, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

A state judge this morning sentenced Earle E. Morris Jr. to 44 months in prison, a day after a jury convicted the former lieutenant governor on 22 counts of securities fraud charges. But Morris will remain out of prison pending an appeal. Judge James W. Johnson Jr. sentenced Morris to 44 months for each of 21 counts, and a 36-month sentence for the remaining count. All the charges revolve around misleading investors before the collapse of Carolina Investors Inc. Morris, 76, would serve those sentences concurrently, the judge ruled. He would be eligible for parole in 11 months. Morris' lawyer, Joel Collins, argued after the sentence in hopes of keeping his client out of prison pending an appeal. Johnson allowed Morris to leave after posting a \$75,000 bond. Morris, former chairman of the Upstate company, repeatedly told investors their money was safe in the months before Carolina Investors and its HomeGold Financial Inc. parent collapsed in the spring of 2003. A jury took less than six hours Thursday to convict Morris on charges that he knowingly mislead investors.

November 21, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

A newly elected Upstate prosecutor says she wants to try the inmates that cost the most to keep behind bars first. Usually, prosecutors try the people who have been in jail the longest. But Chrissy Adams, elected solicitor of the 10th Judicial Circuit earlier this year, says her plan will save more money. "It makes sense but it has not been done," Adams said. Adams' system, thought to be the first of its kind in South Carolina, recognizes that some inmates requiring health care and prescription drugs can add thousands in costs to a jail's budget in a matter of weeks. Unruly prisoners who need extra attention from guards also could be put on a priority list. "If there's two people with charges that pose the same threat to society, we want you to deal with the case that's cost us the most," Anderson County jail director Bob Daly said. Part of the reason a cost-based system has not been used is because solicitors are ranked on efficiency in large part on how old their open cases are, said Circuit Court Judge Cordell Maddox. Maddox and another judge also will set aside special days just to hear cases of inmates at the jail so the county can cut down inmate transportation time and administrative delays. During a May test of the system, the two judges handled more than 100 cases in a day, Maddox said. "This is a new wave in everything," he said. Running the jail costs \$1 million more now than it did in 2000. Much of that is caused by rising medical costs. The jail has already spent more than half its prescription drug budget just four months into the fiscal year. Maddox also plans to put into place a management system that put cases on "tracks" so attorneys have less time and fewer excuses to swap documents, complete discovery and determine whether clients should plead or go to trial. It is similar to a system that has shortened backlogs in Richland and Greenville counties.

November 22, 2004 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

The father of an Asheville high school soccer player was charged with assault for allegedly throwing water on officials after his son's team lost a state championship match. The arrest occurred Saturday night following the N.C. High School Athletic Association Class 3-A championship match between Asheville and White Oak at SAS Soccer Park in Cary. Asheville lost 3-2. Cary police charged Van Frederick Meadows, 47, with three counts of misdemeanor simple assault and one count of throwing an item at a sporting event. As the match's referees left the field at SAS Soccer Park, Meadows and several other Asheville parents stood at the top of the tunnel to the locker rooms. Meadows allegedly dumped water on the three men. An officer on the scene grabbed Meadows by the arm and escorted him out of the stadium. Ken Quinlan with the Cary Police Department said Monday that Meadows was released after facing a Wake County magistrate. "We work so hard as an organization to promote sportsmanship, so this is disappointing," said Carolyn Shannonhouse, assistant executive director of the high school association. "We haven't had this kind of trouble at state championships, and we feel like this is just an isolated event."

November 23, 2004 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

Authorities have issued an Amber Alert in the case of a man they say has kidnapped his wife and daughter. Police say Richard Durwin Gaddy Jr., 31, took his 4-year-old daughter and his wife, Christie Lynn Sharpe, against their will around 8:20 a.m. Tuesday in Alamance County. Gaddy is driving a white 1979 Ford pickup truck with a North Carolina license plate of CS 4165. Police say Gaddy has made threats in the past against Sharpe and that he may be armed. His last local address was in Tangleridge Trail in Northern Alamance County. Gaddy allegedly also tried to take two other daughters from E.M. Holt Elementary School Tuesday morning, but was unsuccessful. If you've seen this vehicle please call the NC Highway Patrol at *HP.

November 23, 2004 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

A copycat may be responsible for a threatening letter from Atlanta that is similar to one that contained the deadly poison ricin at an Upstate post office, federal investigators say. The FBI said Monday that a letter signed by "Fallen Angel" was sent through an Atlanta postal facility to the FBI nine months ago. But unlike the letter found at a postal distribution center in Greenville last year, the latest letter did not contain the poison and officials have not connected the two. The Atlanta letter was sent in February, a few days after it was reported the letter in Greenville was linked to one sent to the White House, said Ann Middleton, supervisory senior resident agent for the FBI in Greenville. Middleton said authorities aren't convinced the Atlanta letter was written by the same person who threatened to dump ricin last fall if federal trucking regulations weren't repealed. The FBI is releasing the new information in hopes of generating fresh leads in the case, Middleton said. Increasing the reward money to \$120,000 in October didn't generate new leads. The new trucking laws went into effect Jan. 4.

November 23, 2004 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

A convenience store clerk trying to do her job is stuck in the hospital after a 19 year old trying to feed his drug habit beat her for the money in her register. Travis Hicks was caught on camera stealing from the 'Lil Cricket in Chesnee after police say he smashed Carolyn Lee in the head with a stick the size of a baseball bat. Detectives say Hicks did it because he needed money for drugs. As of Tuesday night, Lee was upgraded from critical to serious condition.

December 6, 2004 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

A temporary staffing agency in Charleston County that closed this year has pleaded guilty to running an illegal boarding house. L-and-L Services pleaded guilty to five zoning and building violations after as many as 30 Hispanic men and women were housed in two North Charleston residences last winter. The company provided workers for golf courses, restaurants and construction sites. L-and-L Services paid 25-hundred dollars in fines yesterday for violations that included improper plumbing and living space. City inspectors raided two homes in February, citing the business for ten violations. The plea agreement allowed the business to plead guilty and avoid trial. The remaining violations were dropped. The U-S Labor Department has fined the company for failure to pay overtime.

December 7, 2004 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

The Palmetto State is safer now after a suspected serial killer is caught in Louisiana. A 28-year-old accused of a couple of murders, at least three rapes and several robberies right here in South Carolina is caught after being on the run for more than a month. Investigators say, at any given point the killer could have been anywhere, even I-85, driving any car, north or south bound. But they actually caught their man west of us Tuesday afternoon, putting a lot of people at ease. After hiding longer than police ever wanted, Tobias "Toby" Lee was found driving a red stolen car in Central Louisiana. Police tried to pull him over, but Lee led them on a high speed chase, eventually he lost. Inside his car, a gun and body armor. Police say he's been on the run since October when he was accused of killing his first victim, a 39-year-old man soon to be married, dead after four gunshots. Lillie Daniel, the victim's fiancé says, "He acts as if he was a god, like he had the right to make the choice of rather someone should live or die." But police say his violent spree was just getting starting. "He raped me, he was on top of me. I'm laying on the

bed and he's got the knife," says an anonymous rape victim. Lee went to Buena Vista, Georgia where a young woman says he raped her. Knife scars show the fight she put up with the man who attacked her. The rape victim says, "I gave in- said I give in. I was mad, but also scared." After that, investigators say Lee made his way here to South Carolina and held up two soldiers in a bank parking lot. Then, the day before Thanksgiving police say Lee killed a 74-year-old man who was on patrol for his neighborhood crime watch. The victims family says, "It wouldn't hurt my feelings if the investigator called and said they found the guy, he put up a fight and put him to death." Investigators believe Lee headed back to Georgia, where he raped two more women, before stealing the car that gave him away to officers in Louisiana. America's Most Wanted aired the details of Lee's spree this past Saturday and was flooded with phone calls. As always you can watch America's Most Wanted right here on FOX Carolina, Saturday nights at nine.

December 7, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

Pfizer Inc. will turn over some internal research documents on its anti-depressant drug Zoloft to lawyers defending a 15-year-old South Carolina boy accused of murdering his grandparents. A Pfizer spokesman said Tuesday the New York-based drug company will comply with a South Carolina Circuit Court judge's order late last week requiring the drug maker to hand over the documents, which contain medical information from clinical trials. "We'll be doing whatever the court has requested us to do," spokesman Bryant Haskins said. Lawyers for Christopher Pittman, charged with shooting grandparents Joe and Joy Pittman as they slept in their beds three years ago, believe the documents will help them prove Zoloft led the boy to commit the killings. Andy Vickery, a Houston lawyer who has represented plaintiffs in numerous lawsuits against anti-depressant manufacturers and is providing free counsel in Pittman's defense, said the ruling may also pave the way to make public some reports of adverse reactions to Zoloft that have remained confidential under settlements of civil cases. Vickery said the boy had been prescribed Zoloft off-label - meaning for a condition not indicated on the drug's label - by a family doctor weeks before the killings, and his dose was boosted only days before. He said a state forensics psychiatrist has testified she believes the Zoloft caused Pittman to become psychotic and hear voices telling him to kill. Vickery said defense lawyers also expect to call a former Food and Drug Administration psychiatrist, Dr. Richard Kapit. "This is a criminal case that will be tried in the very near future, so it's very likely that this very damning internal, what I call dirty laundry, will be aired in public, and it will become a part of the public domain finally after nearly 10 years of battling Pfizer," Vickery said. But Pfizer's spokesman said the information subpoenaed by defense attorneys was confidential medical information on patients, and he disputed the idea that the records are relevant to the Pittman trial. "There's no evidence that suggests the use of Zoloft could lead to violent behavior," Haskins said. Pfizer's lawyer argued unsuccessfully against the ruling last week, reportedly telling the judge other courts have rejected using the documents because they can be taken out of context or be inconclusive. Haskins noted that the judge's ruling doesn't necessarily mean the documents will become public, as the judge would have to admit them as evidence. Defense lawyers already have many of the documents requested as a result of their previous work in civil cases, but Pfizer expects to hand over the remainder "within a reasonable time," he said. No trial date has been set, although Vickery expects it could be early next year. The judge is also considering a defense motion to send the case back to juvenile court, but Vickery said Pittman favors a public trial regardless of the venue. Sales of Zoloft have sagged amid concerns about side effects in children. Zoloft is not specifically approved by the FDA for use in depressed children and adolescents, but it and other antidepressants, including GlaxoSmithKline PLC's Paxil and Wyeth's Effexor, have been prescribed for children "off-label." An FDA advisory committee in September called for the labels of all antidepressants to get a tough "black box" warning about the risk of increased suicidal tendencies in young people. Vickery said a jury in California earlier this year found a man innocent of attempted murder after a neuropsychiatrist testified the man had an adverse reaction to Zoloft. That case made use only of publicly available information about Zoloft, Vickery said. Shares of Pfizer closed at \$27.20 Tuesday, down a penny, on the New York Stock Exchange.

December 7, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

They may be living in your neighborhood, or even next door. They are sex offenders with criminal records. You may not know it, but you may even see them every day. They could be sitting right next to you in class. Allyson Bagwell says not knowing concerns her. "I do think they have a right to their education, but I kinda think that we would need to know especially attending night classes," said Bagwell. Several state supported colleges and universities like Greenville Tech and Clemson don't have a policy for keeping sexual predators out of the classroom. We talked to Dr. Ben Dillard, Executive Vice President of Greenville Technical College. He told FOX Carolina, "We do not ask that question on the application form and we do not have any written policy regarding sex offenders," commented Dillard. Chastity Gambrell says that should change. "You either look at issues of paying for your own school or not having sex offenders sitting beside you," commented Gambrell. For Ryan Baldwin, it doesn't seem to matter that much. "Me personally, I wouldn't mind because you know guys are different," said Baldwin. However, administrators at private schools like Furman University ask questions about an applicant's criminal past. "A university like Furman will look at a wide variety of things and make that decision based on that," said Vince Moore, a spokesman for the school. However, sex offenders are supposed to let us know where they live and when they fill out forms in Greenville County they are asked if they plan to attend college. "If they answer yes to that then we give that information to SLED, then they in turn notify that school," said Sgt. Mike Brown, with the Greenville County Sheriff's Office. At Clemson University there is a link from their web page to the sex registry. We found one student registered that lives on campus.

December 8, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

It still saddens Alane Taylor to think about how she warned the Abbeville County Sheriff's office the night before a 13-hour standoff one year ago left two law enforcement officers dead. Taylor said she cried every day for four months after the standoff Dec. 8, 2003, which included a barrage of gunfire, a minor explosion and tear gas filling the air. Sheriff's deputy Danny Wilson and Donnie Ouzts, an employee with the Abbeville County Magistrate's Office, were killed in the incident, authorities have said. The dispute involved a narrow strip of land needed for the widening of state Highway 72, authorities said. Taylor, 52, got to know Steven Bixby while they worked together at a restaurant. She knew him for 10 years and remembered Bixby, who has been charged with murder, talking for weeks about a looming confrontation with "government agents" over a strip of land outside the family's home. The night before the standoff, Bixby put his hands on her shoulders, looked her in the eye and told her about his plans to leave his apartment to defend the family's property. "He said that if the shooting started, he was not coming out alive," Taylor told the Anderson Independent-Mail. "I knew when he was just talking and when he was serious." She remembers a deputy asking, "'You don't think he's blowing smoke?' 'No, I think he's dead serious.'" Bixby's parents also have been charged. Arthur Bixby, who authorities said was in the home with his son during the standoff, has been charged with murder. Rita Bixby, who authorities said planned an ambush on the officers with her husband and son, has been charged as an accessory. The standoff has left many with unanswered questions. Wilson's family wonders why he was allowed to go to the home without backup and whether the sheriff's office has examined its procedures to prevent another standoff. Abbeville County Sheriff Charles Goodwin, re-elected to a four-year term in November, doesn't like to talk about that day and won't say if there has been any internal investigation. "Things have not changed a lot," Goodwin said. "But we are more alert. The officers have seen what can happen. They see the reality of not being careful, what can transpire." Wilson's sister, Joann Coleman has since moved to Columbia because she couldn't take driving by the Bixby's home, which is still marked with bullet holes. "They sent him out there with no backup - nothing," Coleman said. "They might as well have put a gun to his head." Coleman and her younger sister, Marilyn Wilson Lee, said if their brother known about the warning, he would not have tried to be "that kind of a hero." It's still unknown exactly what Wilson was doing at the home, though authorities have said his visit was connected to the land dispute, which had culminated three days before in a report of physical threats to state Department of Transportation workers staking out the property. Goodwin said any details about what happened will unfold in the trial. And "any internal or external investigation will be revealed after the case has been tried." But Coleman said she is dreading the trial. "It's just hard for us," she said. "Danny went out there because he had a call to go to out there. It is a sad thing. His life was lost ... but these threats had been going on two or three weeks." Taylor said at times she hasn't been able to eat or sleep. "My life's getting back to normal," she said. "But then I'm waiting for the trial ... It's like you hear the tick, tick and you're waiting for the boom."

December 8, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

A Spartanburg County man has pleaded guilty to sexually assaulting two women and exposing them to the virus that causes AIDS. Circuit Judge Roger Couch on Tuesday sentenced Kenneth Rice, 39, to seven years in prison for third-degree criminal sexual conduct and exposing his victims to HIV. Rice will be eligible for parole after serving one fourth of his time. He'll be eligible for parole in less than a year, having already been in jail about one year. Victim advocate Mary Gauden was unhappy with the sentence. "If you have a deadly disease its like having a weapon," she said. "I really was thinking the worst case scenario would be 10 years." Both victims have tested negative for HIV. Neither victim wanted to talk about the case. "They were disappointed," prosecutor Cindy Smith said. Smith said it is office policy not to talk about sentences. Rice was originally charged with first-degree criminal sexual conduct. Smith said prosecutors offered to downgrade the charge to third-degree criminal sexual conduct in exchange for Rice's guilty plea.

December 17, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

A yearlong investigation has ended with Mayor Phillip Clardy cleared of any wrongdoing, a prosecutor says. The State Law Enforcement Division investigated a slew of allegations, many of them stemmed from former Williamston police chief Richard Turner and Lt. Danny Hart, who were fired in 2003. Among the false claims were suggestions that the firings were made in return for a \$50,000 donation to the mayor's church; questions about the mayor buying flowers and meals for his family with town money; and the use of town workers to move a tree for his brother, a police officer. Prosecutor Donnie Willingham said Thursday that no charges would be filed. Willingham said the allegations, which produced a total of 628 pages of investigation, ultimately boiled down to "political differences," not criminal activity. He said the previous mayor's conviction for embezzling \$75,000 in town funds led him to be extra cautious.

December 18, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

A Greenville County man has been charged with murder in the death of his father-in-law. Michael Taylor Spearman, 28, of Simpsonville, is accused of stabbing, Kenneth Burdette, 47, of Woodruff, with a knife during an argument Saturday, according to arrest warrants. Burdette died at Greenville Memorial Hospital, said Mike Ellis, Greenville County chief deputy coroner. The dispute started between Spearman and his wife, who called her family to pick her up, said sheriff's Sgt. Shea Smith. Investigators would not say what sparked the fight.

December 20, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

An Upstate principal arrested earlier this year on charges of assaulting a student will not be prosecuted, officials said. Prosecutors dropped the charge of simple assault against Woodmont High School principal Randy Reagan, 47, last week. Witnesses had said Reagan forced a student to the ground to stop a dispute between two students in October. The student allegedly suffered abrasions and muscle soreness from the incident. Reagan got a black eye in the fight. The principal was suspended briefly but regained his position after an internal investigation by the district found he acted appropriately. "Since the matter has been handled on an internal basis by the school district, it is considered closed," according to a release from prosecutor Bob Ariail's office.

December 21, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

Almost 100 dogs and more than a dozen hogs have been confiscated in South Carolina as part of a state and federal law enforcement raid on an animal fighting operation in Chester County. The raid was just one of four conducted in different parts of the country Friday, according to the Humane Society of the United States. The other raids were in Alabama, Arizona and Georgia. Three people have been charged in South Carolina, said Trey Walker, spokesman for the state attorney general's office. Arthur Parker Sr., 47, Arthur Parker Jr., 20, and Mary Evans Luther, 50, all of Fort Lawn, were charged with animal fighting and attending an animal fight. Animal fighting is a felony with a maximum penalty of five years in prison and a \$5,000 fine. There is no mandatory minimum sentence. According to a release from the attorney general's office, Parker Sr. is considered one of the top hog-dogfighting event sponsors in the nation. Reached by phone Monday, a man who identified himself as Art Parker said he had been arrested but refused to talk about the case until he spoke with his lawyer. Wayne Pacelle, president and chief executive of the Humane Society, characterized those involved as an "organized criminal association of animal fighters." In Phoenix, James M. Curry and his wife, Jodi Marie, face drug, weapon, child-abuse and animal cruelty charges. Three children were taken into custody by Child Protective Services in the raid there, according to the Yavapai County sheriff's office. In the events, a dog - usually a pit or American bulldog - and a hog or wild boar with its tusks removed are put in a pen and fight until the dog forces the hog to the ground. Both animals typically suffer major injuries in the fight, according to a release from the attorney general's office. While hunting wild boar with a dog is legal in South Carolina, staged fights are prohibited. "Like dogfighting, these activities are barbaric, inhumane and will be vigorously prosecuted in South Carolina," Attorney General Henry McMaster said. All of the dogs were turned over to Chester County Animal Control and Humane Society representatives. The hogs remained on the property. Several were wounded. Walker said one of the most disturbing things about a video of one of the events is the "people standing around the ring cheering." Pacelle said when raids occur, the people involved usually face animal cruelty as well as other charges. "These are violent people who are often associated with other criminal enterprises," he said. The Humane Society actively investigates reports of staged animal fights and does background or intelligence work to help law enforcement make cases, Pacelle said. It is at least the third major development this year in animal fighting in South Carolina. Earlier this month, David Tant, who prosecutors called the No. 2 breeder of fighting pit bulls in the United States, was sentenced Monday to 40 years in prison after pleading guilty to dogfighting and assault charges. That case was the first brought to trial by the attorney general's dogfighting task force. This summer, South Carolina's agriculture commissioner was charged with taking a bribe to help a cockfighting ring avoid legal troubles. Charlie Sharpe has pleaded innocent to extortion, money laundering and other charges. His trial could begin as early as next month.

December 21, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

Authorities believe a man fatally shot his wife, who had a protective order against him, then shot himself to death Monday in Polk County. A state wildlife officer discovered the bodies inside a truck near Lake Adger around 2 p.m., according to the Polk County Sheriff's Department. The victims were identified as Gary Rose and Mary Rose, both of Polk County and both reportedly in their 40s. The truck's motor was still running and both victims were shot once in the head, said Toby Jenkins, an officer with the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission. "I saw the driver had a gun in his hand. He was slumped over," Jenkins said. Sheriff's detective Sgt. B.J. Bayne said authorities believe the shootings occurred around two hours before Jenkins came across the truck. Officials said a domestic violence protective order was in place and that a .25-caliber handgun was used in the shooting. "I really can't say what set it off," Bayne said. Jenkins said a third round was fired through the passenger window of the truck, which was shattered.

December 29, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPITON:

They were pushed out of Charlotte and set up new territory in South Carolina. Now the state's top law enforcer is taking the offensive-- using the strongest legal tool to crack down on the most dangerous gangs. When and if gang members hear the term "grand jury" it probably doesn't mean anything. And until now it really hasn't. But starting Wednesday, once a gang member is cuffed, the two words, "grand jury" could shatter their luxury world of crime and violence. South Carolina Attorney General, Henry McMaster, says "We want to lock up leaders. We want them to stop. We want to id leaders and we want to stop them from doing what they do". And they do a lot. Gang activity grew by the hundreds across the Carolinas in just a year and their members have no mercy on anyone or anything. A gang member in Greenville, who doesn't want to be identified, says, "I've shot people. Saw peoples head get blown off. We smoke weed, steal, rob, jack people. We want it we'll take it". Their mafia-like activity may look simple on the surface, but is really complex. Take for example Sponge Bob Square Pants, sports jerseys, even the Star of David. Gang members use those to mark their turf and South Carolina is just beginning to scratch the surface of these elaborate networks. Richland County Sheriff Leon Lott, says, "Drugs play a major part with violent crimes to just drug trafficking". But until now, when gang members are busted, the investigation comes to a halt because the person doesn't cooperate and refuses to give up information. Now, the simple bang of a gavel can force gang members to give up information or get locked up. It's a powerful tool that can only be exercised by a state grand jury. "They're in trouble. The resources of the state are being organized to go after them", says McMaster. The power of the grand jury will be used to chart gang life and crimes, in turn helping law enforcement do their jobs.

Attachments



Education

**PROGRAMS ADDRESSING PROBLEM/NEED
FOURTH QUARTER 2004**

Problem/Need: **EDUCATION**

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>PROGRAM</u>
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October 19, 2004	10:00pm	The Ten O'clock News
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DESCRIPTION

A Greenville County principal is arrested for assaulting a student. Randy Regan, the principal at Woodmont High School in Piedmont has been in charge there for only a year, now he's off the job after the parents of one of his students pressed charges against him. There are a lot of questions this week and very few answers because the district and the Sheriff's Office are still investigating last week's incident. Parents who want to know what is going to happen next say the whole ordeal is very frustrating. The 62 year old has a reputation for turning schools around. Reports show he transformed an "unsatisfactory" high school in Sumter County to "excellent" in a matter of a year. Some say that's why he was hired for the home of the wildcats. Tracy Hickman, a parent at Woodmont, says, "This school has a bad reputation as it is and he's done a good job to clean it up so far". But Regan's squeaky-clean reputation may now be on the line after police say; he crossed the line, when he tried to break up a verbal argument between two students last Thursday. "The principal, who we are investigating, is alleged to have tackled the student during a verbal altercation and did cause some harm to the student", says Master Deputy Michael Hildebrand of the Greenville County Sheriff's Office. After forcing the 14 year old student to the ground, investigators say, the alleged victim suffered from scrapes and muscle soreness-- enough to charge the principal with assault and battery. Hildebrand says, "After a couple of days of investigating we were able to get enough evidence to make arrest". FOX Carolina tried contacting Regan but we were unsuccessful. District administrators and board members are remaining tight-lipped until the investigation is complete. Until then Regan is on administrative leave with pay.

October 23, 2004	10:00pm	The Ten O'clock News
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DESCRIPTION:

An independent board has proposed using three major pieces of Clemson University lakefront property to create a living-learning community. A panel of experts from the Urban Land Institute presented recommendations Friday to a standing-room only crowd at Clemson's Madren Conference Center. The panel was brought in to help the school determine the best use of its land assets, university President Jim Barker said. "Any development must enhance the university's mission of teaching and research," Barker said. Barker said there are no immediate plans for development. Studying the best use of the land will help Barker's goal of moving Clemson into the top 20 public universities in the country, said panelist Tim Rose, executive officer of the University of Virginia Foundation. The seven-member panel met with university and city of Clemson officials, local developers and economic development experts. A final report will be submitted in the next two months. The concept expands across Lake Hartwell to create a campus joined, not separated, by the lake, said Helen Hatch, an Atlanta architect specializing in design of hotels, convention centers and conference facilities. The land consists of parcels of federally deeded, university-owned property that borders the university's experimental forest. Any steps to develop the area would have to address legal and environmental challenges. Panel Chairwoman Marilyn Taylor said there are no plans to do away with the popular Y Beach property. "The Y Beach is a place of great emotional attachment and we don't intend to replace it," Taylor said. The panel suggests upgrading existing recreational facilities at the beach and developing 25 to 35 low-profile lake cottages, averaging 1,500 square feet each. Clemson spokeswoman Cathy Sams said the plan, which will be discussed at future public sessions, calls for a total of about 300 homes. Public access to the lake would be preserved. The panel suggested an active adult community on the surrounding land to include some mixed-use buildings, some service retail, such as a restaurant or daycare facility, and 125 residential units. The

other two sites would feature land preserved for research, conservation and public use, along with clustered residential communities of single-family homes and townhomes. Including students and faculty in the planning and design of a model community would create what the panel called a balance between no growth and unplanned growth. "The techniques and best practices developed here could be utilized by developers nationwide," panelist Gary Fenchuk said. He is president of East West Partners of Virginia, a development company currently managing eight planned communities in Florida and Virginia. Public reaction was mixed. Jason Armstrong, 22, a Clemson graduate student from Hickory Tavern studying real estate development was impressed. He said he's confident Clemson would make best use of the selected land and continue to protect from development most of its 20,000 acres of forest in Pickens, Anderson and Oconee counties. Elizabeth Blizzard, 28, a graduate student in forestry and natural resources from Columbia, was depressed. She is concerned development could sprawl across not only the selected land but also most of Clemson's experimental forest.

November 10, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

The Greenville County School Board says your children need to watch their mouths. The Board has declared all county schools "profanity free zones." While schools are already supposed to be "profanity free," the School Board says that's not the case and they're stepping up efforts to keep foul language out and good manners in. These days it's hard to go a day without hearing some "bad words." School administrators, teachers and parents say school hallways and classrooms are being filled with unfit language. According to Ann Sutherlin, a member of the Greenville County School Board, "Foul language and unsuitable language is just epidemic around, everywhere, it's all over the school district at all levels from first grade and up." Margarette Carter is a parent of two kids, she says, "Kids, they just don't care, they hear it at home or on the street and they repeat it." That's why the Greenville County School Board is working to re-enforce guidelines, already in place, and clean up what's being said in schools. "I'm talking about street language, the really vulgar, obscene street language," explains Sutherlin. Many parents, like Alan Melton are all for it, "I think it's fantastic." Carter agrees, "I think it's a great idea." But some kids, like Eastside Senior, Simone Shahdadi say it's not that big of a deal and don't know if a crackdown on curse words will help, "Maybe it'll be effective in elementary and middle school, I don't think it'll have that much impact in high school, I think people are set in their ways by that time." Sutherlin says it won't change overnight, but making kids' mouth's cleaner needs to start some time. "For a lot of children, it's just force of habit because they hear it on the street everyday and some of it hear it at home, but it's a habit that's not good and it's a habit we'd like to break." So what is ok to say in school? According to Sutherlin, "I think students know it instinctively and I think administrators and principals know it and they will enforce it when they hear it." Each different administration is responsible for deciding what is appropriate language, as is the current policy. They're also being encouraged to come up with ways to promote good language. Kids will continue to face consequences for cursing in school, ranging from detention to suspension and even expulsion.

November 11, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

When you think of sex offenders, you probably think of someone older, sexually assaulting a young child, but that's not always the case. The sex offenders' registry is a very serious list that includes people convicted of sex crimes. What many people don't know is this list includes a group of offenders you may not have even thought of. Thousands of registered sex offenders live in South Carolina, but it's not just adults having sex these days. According to 17 year old Jamin Teie, "Yes, I think that a lot of people are having sex, over half the high school population of students are having sex." 17 year old Ashley Nelson agrees, "A lot of kids do it." And 16 year old Tarrah Casey says, "Oh yeah, all the time, a lot of people, I would say 80 percent of the kids at our school are having sex." Parents, while you may not think your kid is "doing it," these teens say, open your eyes. Sixteen year old Katelyn Craigo says, "It's not something that people should look past and say my kid's not having sex, they would never do that, because kids are doing it and it's happening more and more often and younger and younger." And they're doing it wherever they can, "Cars are a big spot, parties, parents are out of town, go over to the house," says Tarrah.

Jamin says, "Wherever people feel like they can have it at, they'll do it." Teens may just be having fun or experimenting, what they may not realize is their name could be put on the registry too. According to Beverly Pettit, the Greenville County Sex Offender's Registry Coordinator, "Parents find out, it starts from there, parents make a complaint and investigate from there." The age of consent in South Carolina is 16, even if both people consent, it doesn't necessarily mean they're in the clear. It's up to a judge to decide whether or not the minor should or shouldn't be placed on the registry, but if they are, Pettit says, "It's a lifetime registration in the state of South Carolina." For high school kids that could be devastating to their future. "It's a situation that will affect all areas of their lives, job applications, college applications," explains Pettit. The teens I talked to didn't even know this was a possibility.

"That is scary, it's not even something I've ever thought about or even heard of really," says Jamin. Nineteen year old Greg Teal says, "The thought never crossed my mind, I didn't even realize it." And chances are, kids don't consider the consequences, even if they know what they are. Jamin says, "I don't think it's going to change their hormones or anything like that and they're probably just not going to care, and they'll do it anyway." Tarrah agrees, "They aren't thinking honestly, I just don't think they're thinking of the severity, they're just thinking oh, it's just sex." "It just doesn't seem to me kids would worry about that very much, I guess they don't understand the seriousness of being a registered sex offender for the rest of your life," says Greg. It may take someone else getting caught to realize it could happen to you. Nearly 20 teens on the Sex Offenders' Registry live in the Upstate and range in age from 14 to 19. "I don't think they realize the seriousness of it, I don't think they realize the ramification of a conviction like this," says Pettit. Still think you're invincible? Seventeen year old Coby Palmer was accused of a sex crime when he was 13, "I didn't even know what was going on, next thing I know, I'm in handcuffs and shackles." 139 kids ages 10 to 19 are on the Sex Offenders' Registry in South Carolina and will be there forever. It is a reality. For Tarrah and many other teens, "that's very scary." Not all sex offenders are sexual predators. A sex offender must register each year with the county they live in and their information is available to the public. Many teens encourage parents to stay involved in their kids' lives and know what they're getting into in hopes of keeping them safe and help them make the right decisions about their future.

November 17, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

A Spartanburg County mother says an in-school suspension went too far. Patricia Kent says her 11-year-old son Jacob, called a teacher a liar and was sent to "The Recovery" program for the day at Beech Springs Intermediate School. During the in-school suspension, students are told they will participate in some kind of physical activity as well as their assignments for the day. Patricia agreed her son needed to be punished, but the problem she says is that the assistant principal assigned Jacob to a janitor because the "Recovery" teacher was out for the day. She also says Jacob did not do any school work. "My son was placed with a janitor for the day. He was exposed to cleaning toilets, exposed to cleaning female restrooms with maxi pads and tampon bins," commented Patricia Kent. A spokesman with Spartanburg County School District 5 says if Jacob cleaned bathrooms it was inappropriate and they apologize. However, he says it is not uncommon for students to participate in physical activity like stacking chairs. The incident is under investigation.

December 1, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

A case of he said-she said reaches a boiling point at a Spartanburg County School. A coach at Byrnes High resigned after being accused of having an inappropriate relationship with a student. With the football team headed to a State Championship and the band on its way to Hawaii, this is a bit of a sour note students and teachers would rather not hear. But two coaches in the past few weeks have now been accused by two different students of having inappropriate relationships. This Friday when the rebels take to the field for the State Championships, there is one assistant coach who won't be there: 30-year-old Paul Humphries. Humphries is also the head coach for boys track. Head coach, assistant coach; titles he no longer carries after being accused of having a sexual relationship with a 17 year old student. When Humphries resigned late last week the rumors started flying. That's when we set out to get the facts. The district, confirming its investigation into a coach having a sexual relationship with a student, forced Humphries to resign. But Wednesday, Humphries took the offensive and demanded his job back after he

says he was intimidated and forced to resign without knowing exactly what the allegations were. Earlier Wednesday, Spartanburg District Five released a statement saying: "The resignation was requested by the administration based upon the evidence they had gathered before and during the conference with Mr. Humphries." But another coach accused of kissing another girl is back at school this week. Administration saying security cameras didn't confirm the girl's tale. Humphries tells FOX Carolina the only reason he's still out of a job is because he's black. As expected the district, denies that. "...race nor any factor would be a consideration in the outcome of such an investigation", says Barry Reese, Spokesman for the district. Humphries wouldn't go on camera, but did tell FOX Carolina he absolutely had no sexual or physical contact with the student in question. But did admit to talking with the girl on the phone weekly, she was having trouble with her ex-boyfriend. Since the girl in question is seventeen, no criminal charges were filed.

December 6, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

Gas prices, your child's education, and the lottery. The connection between the three is raising concern this week about how much money your child's school will get next year. Gas prices are higher this year compared to last and that makes shelling out an extra dollar or two a little bit harder for those already on a tight budget. Even if it means trying your odds against a jackpot about the size of 171 million dollars. Students at Taylors Elementary played bingo during after school programs Monday. For those kids, the stakes of Bingo are low. But another game they're too young to play can raise the stakes dramatically. Vaughan Overman, Principal at Taylors Elementary says, "It's excellent, it's outstanding. The teachers get really excited when they know how much lottery money we have to spend." After school programs, professional development for teachers, improved technology, and reduced class sizes are all a benefit of money generated from South Carolina's education lottery. This school year Overman relied on a little more than 12-thousand dollars of those free funds. I know schools need money and this is a wonderful way for us to purchase things we wouldn't be able to purchase otherwise," says Overman. But now some of that money may be in jeopardy. The lotto tells FOX Carolina it expects less lotto money will be given to schools next year. But the question is by how much? State economic advisors say a lot-- 32 million dollars worth. The reason: high gas prices, for starters. This time last year, a gallon of gas was nearly 50 cents cheaper. State advisors also say less people are buying lotto tickets because of smaller jackpots. ***Overman says, "We have to take a close look and prioritize." That prediction is forcing principals like Overman to consider cutting back programs they just got. It's a money game our kids can't afford to play. "But we don't want to go backward, we want to go forward and we need to continue moving forward and so it'll be a disappointment if we lose some of those funds," says Overman. While the state predicts a 32 million dollar decrease the lotto is gambling on a smaller number. Lotto representatives tell us they only expect about a 13 million dollar decrease. You can find the winning numbers for Pick-3, Pick-4 and Carolina-5 right here on FOX Carolina. Plus, you'll find live drawings for the Powerball every Wednesday and Saturday night here at 10:59.

December 7, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

An alumnus and his wife have donated \$1 million to Furman University to support the university's Chinese studies program. The gift was provided by Ravenel B. Curry III, a 1963 Furman graduate who currently serves on the Furman Board of Trustees, and his wife Beth. Thomas Kazee, Furman's vice president for academic affairs and dean, said the gift will allow the university to fund scholarships for Furman students traveling to China, bring in an additional Chinese language professor, hire an onsite person to facilitate the university's foreign study program in China and help bring Chinese students to study at Furman. About \$250,000 of the gift will be used to establish a permanent endowment for the Chinese studies program. The money also will support the Richard W. Riley Institute's "China's Global Rise" program, a five-part series of lectures and conferences on China's transformations

and current challenges. The Currys are co-founders of Eagle Capital Management, an investment management firm in New York City.

December 7, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

The Black Coaches Association wants prospective football recruits and assistant coaches to stay away from South Carolina after the school ignored the group's recommendation for a more open coaching search. The group's director, Floyd Keith, told The Associated Press on Tuesday that South Carolina never contacted the BCA. The group sent the school search guidelines before it named Steve Spurrier to replace Lou Holtz last month. "There was an announcement and a hire," Keith said. "That was so fast that a jackrabbit couldn't have had a family between all that." The BCA first made its call in The Chronicle of Higher Education. South Carolina athletic director Mike McGee said the mission of the BCA is important to college football. However, administrators faced a brief timeframe to land someone with as successful a past as Spurrier, McGee said. Keith said South Carolina administrators should've shown the same consideration he's seeing from other schools with openings. One athletic director, Keith said, flew into his Indianapolis office to discuss its search. University of Mississippi Chancellor Robert Khayat has said administrators there are working closely with Keith's group as it looks to replace David Cutcliffe. "Maybe people are beginning to get it," Keith said. Except, perhaps, South Carolina. Keith said the school hasn't gotten a response from the Gamecock athletic department since Spurrier was brought on board. "In my opinion and in the opinion of my association, what this says to us is they don't care," Keith said. "We want athletes and parents of color to start taking stock in the process that institutions take in choosing coaches." Keith had nothing but praise for Spurrier. "It's not about him," Keith said. "This is about the process." McGee was attending a College Football Hall of Fame banquet in New York with Spurrier and was unavailable for comment. However, he issued a statement saying there were "unusual and extraordinary circumstances that we faced" when Holtz decided with several weeks left in the season to step down. "We had the opportunity to replace an accomplished and national championship coach with another," McGee said. "The window for that to occur was clearly uncertain. It certainly was not the normal type of coaching transition that an institution faces." Keith didn't buy that. "That man (Spurrier) wasn't going anywhere. He played golf all winter," Keith said. Anton Gunn, a former South Carolina offensive lineman with public advocacy group South Carolina Fair Share, said his alma mater has a good record of inclusion and understands McGee had to act fast to hire Spurrier. But he says the Gamecocks are caught up in "a confluence of things." Three of the five black college coaches - Notre Dame's Tyrone Willingham, New Mexico State's Tony Samuel and San Jose State's Fitz Hill - won't be back with their schools next season. Plus, Gunn said South Carolina has a history of racial problems affecting sports, such as the NCAA's continuing moratorium on awarding championships to the state for flying the Confederate flag on Statehouse grounds. The BCA supports the NCAA's position and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People's tourism boycott. "Those things have added fuel to the fire," Gunn said. When asked if the past problems had anything to do with the present call, Keith said, "That's for others to decide. All I do is deal with the facts." Keith's group will keep spotlighting situations where minorities don't get a chance for a job, he said. In the end, potential assistants and student athletes should not "go where you can't coach, or even have an opportunity to be interviewed," Keith said. "Don't go there."

December 7, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

The former owner of a printing business left \$3 million for a scholarship fund for students in western North Carolina who attend the University of North Carolina at Asheville and Montreat College. The fund established by Alfred Miller, who died last year, will provide scholarships for students from Buncombe County and adjoining counties who attend UNCA and Montreat, the schools announced Monday. The schools will split the money evenly. Miller served on the Asheville-Biltmore College board of trustees from 1958 to 1963 and was instrumental in helping transform the college into the four-year university that is now UNCA. He also served on the Montreat College board of trustees from 1961-1969 and was named trustee emeritus at Montreat in 1995. "He was a firm believer in

education," said Jim Daniels, a friend who bought Miller's printing business in 1969. "He was a very generous man. He was very, very involved in many aspects of the city." Proceeds from the trust initially will pay for about 20 scholarships a year at UNCA ranging from about \$1,000 to \$1,500 a student, said Alex Comfort, associate vice chancellor for development. The number of scholarships could increase to as many as 40 annually as the trust grows. Miller was president of Miller Printing Co., a company founded by his father. for 41 years. He was also director of the Asheville Chamber of Commerce and held leadership positions for organizations including the Blue Ridge Parkway Association.

Attachments



Environment

**PROGRAMS ADDRESSING PROBLEM/NEED
FOURTH QUARTER 2004**

Problem/Need: **ENVIRONMENT**

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>PROGRAM</u>
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October 20, 2004	10:00pm	10 O'clock News
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DESCRIPTION:

Experts believe flooding last month from tropical systems Frances and Ivan was a once-in-500 years occurrence in some communities. "Even though it was a tragedy, it was a learning experience for all of us," Joseph Pelissier, chief meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Greer, S.C., said Tuesday at a meeting of local leaders. Jeanne Robbins, hydrologist with the United States Geological Survey in Raleigh, said the division is still collecting numbers. But "in all likelihood," recent storms in the Pigeon River, French Broad and upper Catawba river basins caused 100-, 200- and, in some locations, 500-year floods. At five sites in the region, floodwaters hit levels above any recorded since 1920. Local and federal officials shared the latest damage assessments at the meeting with members of the Asheville City Council and the Buncombe County Board of Commissioners. According to figures made public at the meeting, 700 businesses and 800 homes were damaged in Buncombe County, at a total estimated cost of \$200 million. The state Department of Social Services spent \$4.1 million on disaster relief, including emergency food assistance, and FEMA has spent nearly \$20 million statewide on victims of the two storms. Asheville officials say they will need \$14 million to buy out owners of property in floodplains who want to sell following the flooding. County officials are estimating stream restoration costs at \$3.6 million. Local officials said they are counting on the state and federal governments to cover cleanup costs. Still not known is whether the state Legislature will pay to update floodplain maps for western North Carolina. John Dorman, director of the North Carolina Floodplain Mapping Program, said Tuesday that at least 16 western counties have flood maps that are more than five years out of date, while eight have maps that are more than 20 years old. New maps will cost \$15.1 million he said, with the state needing to put up \$5.3 million before FEMA will kick in \$9.8 million. But Dorman said the maps are needed, because the floods -- while severe -- will inevitably recur. "The real question is not if we'll have another event," he said. "It's when."

October 24, 2004	10:00pm	The Ten O'clock News
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DESCRIPTION:

Western North Carolina residents are slowly recovering from hurricanes Frances, Ivan and Jeanne. So are the region's parks and forest land. Officials say it could take months and up to 60 million dollars to restore damage on state and federal parklands. Most major thoroughfares are returning to normal in time for fall leaf season, but there's still a lot of mess in the backcountry. Broken bridges, washed-out roads and battered campgrounds must be repaired or cleaned up. The Great Smoky Mountains National Park sustained 2-point-7 million dollars in damage. About half of this originates on park trails. The Blue Ridge Parkway sustained up to 10 million dollars in damage. Portions of the road were closed immediately after Frances and as Ivan neared. Only two sections remained blocked this month totaling 19 miles of the 469 miles of parkway running through Virginia and North Carolina.

November 9, 2004	10:00pm	The Ten O'clock News
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DESCRIPTION:

Meteorologists have two theories about what caused a mudslide in Peaks Creek that resulted in the deaths of five people and the destruction of 15 houses, but neither may totally explain the event. The slide Sept. 16 came after

the remnants of Hurricanes Frances and Ivan hit Macon County and much of the rest of western North Carolina nine days apart. National Weather Service meteorologist Jonathan Lamb detailed two early theories about the slide's cause during a presentation Tuesday at the University of North Carolina-Asheville. One theory is that Tropical Storm Frances caused a natural debris dam to form, which burst when Tropical Storm Ivan hit, Lamb said. The second theory is that a microburst or a small tornado toppled trees at the top of Fishhawk Mountain above the Peaks Creek community, causing the soil to give way.

Both theories have several flaws, though. The two-mile path of the slide only has one natural place for a dam to form - about a third of the way down the slide path. Evidence from tree and vegetation damage doesn't support the tornado theory. A "microburst" of torrential rainfall did hit the area about 10 to 20 minutes before the slide and may have contributed to it, Lamb said. Another contributing factor is the steepness of the terrain - in some areas along the slide track, the mountains have a 50- to 55-degree slope. The storms dumped a total of nearly 25 inches of rain in the area and likely saturated the mountainside before trees, mud and rock slid down the slope. The debris moved reached a maximum velocity of 33 mph. "There was nothing to stop it at this point," Lamb said, adding that trees still standing near the slide path lost limbs 30 and 40 feet in the air, probably from tumbling downed trees. "When you stand and look at these trees you say, 'This thing must've been an absolute monster.'" The slide started near the top of Fishhawk Mountain, more than 2,000 feet above where many of the homes were destroyed. Such a catastrophic debris flow occurs about every 20 to 25 years, but they are extremely hard to predict because the mountain area has so many steep slopes with shallow topsoil, Lamb said. Marilyn Jones, who lost her home of 30 years in the slide, and the other residents who lost homes, say their insurance companies have denied their claims. "We can't do anything until somebody tells us something (about what caused the slide)," she said. A 15-person task force of weather and geology experts is examining the slide and will meet again Nov. 16. Within a week of that meeting, they could be ready to release some findings, according to Warren Cabe, Macon County Emergency Services director.

November 18, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

South Carolina archaeologists reported new evidence Wednesday that a remote spot along the Savannah River may be the oldest known site of human occupation in North America. And that's much, much older than anyone thought possible. The discovery, which dates human activity at the site to more than 50,000 years ago, poses a major challenge to traditional views about the origins of the first Americans and the timing of their arrival.

November 18, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

s been proposed by many previous investigators, but none of these early sites has survived careful professional examination," said David Anderson, an anthropology professor at the University of Tennessee. For years, scientists have held the belief that man first arrived about 13,000 years ago when migrants crossed the Bering Strait during the Ice Age into modern-day Alaska but were unable to move further south because of ice-sheets covering what is now Canada. But a handful of archaeological sites - including the Topper Site in Allendale County - are raising questions about that date. Could man have arrived here sooner? University of South Carolina archaeologist Al Goodyear released radiocarbon dating results Wednesday on plant remains found deep at the Topper dig site. The results show the remains are at least 50,000 years old. The finding is significant because it means humans could have inhabited North America long before the last ice age more than 20,000 years ago. The discovery began in South Carolina in 1981 when Goodyear was surveying a local flint called chert in Allendale County near the Savannah River. A local man named Topper directed him to a prehistoric quarry that became known as the Topper Site. In the mid-1980s, Goodyear and his team found signs of the mammoth-hunting Clovis people. Scientists found large chert tools dating back 13,000 years about three feet below the surface. A few years later, Goodyear became intrigued by controversial pre-Clovis findings in Monteverde, Chile, and Cactus Hill, Va. So in 1998, Goodyear decided to dig deeper. If there were pre-Clovis people, Goodyear reasoned, the area near the Savannah River would be a good place to live. As Goodyear's team dug deeper - some 11 feet down - they found a number of artifacts similar to the pre-Clovis tools excavated in that area. They also found a substance that appeared to be charcoal. Thomas Stafford, director of

Stafford Laboratories in Boulder, Colo., and a visiting professor at the University of Wisconsin, took samples of the substance. They were sent to the University of California at Irvine for testing. The results showed plant material - oak, pine, red cherry and buckeye - that had been burned in a low-temperature fire, Stafford said. Testing dated them at least 50,300 years, he said. The findings help to undermine the Bering Strait theory, said Vine Deloria, an author and retired University of Colorado history professor. While it's not time to rewrite the science books, the findings do raise questions about current scientific theories, said Eric Powell, managing editor of Archaeology magazine. There are skeptics, too. "Extraordinary claims require extraordinary standards of evidence. A human presence upward of 40,000 years old in the New World has been proposed by many previous investigators, but none of these early sites has survived careful professional examination," said David Anderson, an anthropology professor at the University of Tennessee.

November 22, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

With a little luck and its conservation fund left intact, a stretch of the Reedy River polluted eight years ago by thousands of gallons of diesel fuel could once again be open for public use, conservationists say. If all goes as some groups plan, the public will one day use the hardest hit 23-mile stretch to canoe, fish and even swim. But some landowners' reluctance to sell land along the river and a chance the Legislature could raid the fund are hurdles to those plans, conservationists say. A few strings come with a \$3 million chunk of the settlement with Colonial Oil, the company whose pipeline spilled 950,000 gallons of fuel into the river in 1996, killing 35,000 fish and turning lime green the naturally muddy brown river. The money has been set aside to either buy property from private landowners or purchase "conservation easements" that limit what they could build along the river. Conservation groups, who are negotiating with landowners on behalf of the state, have to find an owner willing to sell property for no more than the appraised value. Purchases would have to be approved by the state Department of Natural Resources board, the Joint Bond Review Committee and the state Budget and Control Board, said Barry Beasley, director of habitat protection for the state Department of Natural Resources. Landowners who put their property into a conservation easement would retain ownership. But Trout said development would be limited to low-impact structures, such as a dock or picnic shelter, within 200 feet of the water. Some landowners fear that curbing development with an easement would lower their property values, said Grant Cunningham, a Clemson University associate professor of planning and landscape architecture. But Cunningham said the easements offer tax write-offs and can increase property values by protecting river views.

The Legislature raided the Colonial Pipeline fund in 2002, using more than \$400,000 in interest to help make up for a state budget shortfall.

Brad Wyche, executive director of Upstate Forever, said federal law offers some protection of the fund, but he remains concerned the General Assembly could divert the money away from conservation.

"They've been raiding environmental funds for many years," he said. "Just look at their record."

November 22, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

A paper mill is getting \$1.5 million in federal money to help repair flood damage because the mill treats sewage from its hometown along with industrial waste from the paper operation. Rep. Charles Taylor, R-N.C., presented \$1.5 million Monday to the town of Canton to reimburse Blue Ridge Paper Products for money spent on repairing its wastewater treatment plant. The mill has treated Canton's municipal waste since the 1960s. The relationship allowed Taylor to appropriate public money to pay for repairs to the treatment plant. "It's putting your money where your mouth is," said Eddie Plemmons, the mill's operations improvement coordinator. Tropical storms Frances and Ivan in September flooded the mill, which is located in downtown Canton near the Pigeon River. The storms caused

\$32 million in damage to the mill. The company's insurance will cover \$20 million, officials said. Blue Ridge President Rich Lozyniak said the money from Taylor would help soften the blow to the business. In February, the mill told its workers that it would cut 100 jobs because of \$30 million in losses during the past three years. The company now employs about 1,300 people. A month later, the company announced rising insurance costs had forced it to open a health care clinic. Mill officials encouraged workers and their families to use the company doctor instead of private physicians. Lozyniak said the floods came at a time when the paper industry was improving, although the damage will slow the mill. "We feel very good about the future," Lozyniak said. Employees and KPS Special Situations Fund, a New York investment company, jointly own Blue Ridge. Taylor also announced plans to spend \$2 million to build levees along the Pigeon River in an effort to prevent future flooding. Canton and neighboring Clyde were among the hardest hit areas of western North Carolina during the floods of September.

November 26, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

It was a tiny one, but people in Dorchester county say they felt the earth shake Thanksgiving morning..

It was faint, but the earthquake in Summerville was real. A spokesman for the National Earthquake Information Center says tiny earthquakes are common in the low-country city. He says it was too small to cause any damage and it is not a prelude to something bigger.

December 3, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

A small steam leak forced South Carolina Electric and Gas Company to shut down its nuclear power plant in Jenkinsville in Fairfield County. S-C-E-andG says the leak was in a non-nuclear area of the V.C. Summer plant and presented --no-- danger to workers or nearby residents. Roger Hannah with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission in Atlanta says the incident is under investigation. Hannah says there is --no-- immediate safety issue because the plant was taken offline. The N-R-C keeps inspectors at the facility full-time. A plant worker discovered the leak shortly after midnight Sunday and the utility started a rapid shutdown. Company spokeswoman Mary Green Brush says the utility doesn't know how long it will take to fix the leak.

December 17, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

Three Upstate South Carolina counties have not provided enough information to determine whether they meet federal standards for air quality, the federal Environmental Protection Agency said Friday. Anderson, Greenville and Spartanburg counties were designated as "unclassifiable" because an air-quality monitor did not record three years of data about pollutants in the air, state and federal officials said. Every other county in the state met federal standards. The monitors record the presence of pollutants, including fine particles that can cause severe health problems, according to the EPA Web site. Though one monitor did not record proper data, three others did record three calendar years of data and showed the counties met federal standards, said officials with the state Department of Health and Environmental Control. "We are at a loss to explain EPA's rationale when other air quality monitors in the three counties show the areas are meeting the national standard for fine particulate matter," said Robert W. King Jr., deputy commissioner for Environmental Quality Control. The "unclassifiable" designation does not warrant EPA sanctions. DHEC has increased its monitoring efforts and made changes to get the malfunctioning monitor working properly, officials said.

Attachments



Government

**PROGRAMS ADDRESSING PROBLEM OR NEED
FOURTH QUARTER 2004**

Problem/Need: **GOVERNMENT**

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>PROGRAM</u>
Sundays (airs weekly)	11:00 am	FOX NEWS SUNDAY

DESCRIPTION:

Fox News Sunday is a national weekly program with current events and political issues. (60:00)

October 6, 2004	10:00pm	The Ten O'clock News
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DESCRIPTION:

All of the candidates are banking on your vote come November 2nd and South Carolina voters are among the few casting their ballots in a very high-tech way. Poll workers are holding demonstrations throughout Greenville County to make sure voters are comfortable with the new iVotronic Voting Machine. This is how it works, voters will select a candidate by using a touch screen and if they make a mistake they can review the selection and change the vote. Next, voters will press a flashing red "vote" button to cast their ballots. The \$3.8 million for the machines in Greenville County came from the "Help America Vote Act." For More Information log onto scvotes.org

October 20, 2004	10:00pm	The Ten O'clock News
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DESCRIPTION:

The state's top Senate races are coming with a huge price tag. With two weeks of heavy campaigning remaining, candidates in the most watched races filed reports with the Senate Ethics Committee earlier this week showing they spent almost \$2 million through Oct. 13. Voters will decide who wins the Legislature's 170 seats - 46 in the Senate and 124 in the House - on Nov. 2. Most incumbent legislators are running without opposition or with long-shot opponents. But in the Senate, a dozen races have brought out fierce spending and campaigning as retirements and primary upsets for incumbents put more races in doubt. Republicans targeted a handful of Democratic leaders for defeat and Democrats took aim at two former members who switched to the GOP. The race to replace retiring Sen. Warren Giese, R-Columbia, is by far the most expensive Statehouse race this year. Republican Ken Wingate, a Columbia lawyer and close ally of Gov. Mark Sanford, has spent \$422,616 in his bid. His rival, state Rep. Joel Lourie, has spent \$261,039. "I think we always expected that this would be an expensive race," Lourie said. Much of the money lately has gone into harsh television advertisements. Lourie says about half his spending has been on television. Lately, he has taken to the air to defend his spending priorities on public

education while questioning Wingate's support for school vouchers that could be used at private, religious schools. Wingate entered the last month of the contest with \$14,026 in cash on hand. Lourie had \$80,521. In the Pee Dee, Senate Majority Leader Hugh Leatherman, R-Florence, has spent \$275,701 to keep the seat he first won in 1980. His opponent, Florence lawyer Steven Wukela has spent \$117,879 in the race. Leatherman's leadership position makes him a prime target for challengers. But that role and his job as chairman of the Senate's budget-writing committee also make it easier for him to raise cash for his campaign. Republicans would like to wrest seats from at least two key Democrats: _ Clearwater Sen. Tommy Moore is sometimes mentioned as a likely contender for the Democratic gubernatorial nomination in 2006. While known as one of the Senate's best dealmakers, Moore also has a knack for keeping Republican agenda items bottled up. Moore has spent \$78,215 in his race and has \$92,885 on hand. The Senate Ethics Committee says Bernie Hamby, Moore's opponent, had not filed a report by Wednesday afternoon. _ Sen. Phil Leventis of Sumter is also in a tough fight. On the last day of the session, Leventis filibustered against Sanford's nominee for chairman of the state Workers' Compensation Commission and drew criticism from Republicans who wanted to get work done on other legislation. Leventis has spent \$83,145 and has \$11,470 on hand. His opponent, Republican Dickie Jones, has spent \$77,060 and has \$110,198. Democrats had promised tough fights for two party-switchers. But that's not showing up in the race to raise money to conduct campaigns: _ Sen. Luke Rankin, a Myrtle Beach lawyer who switched to the GOP this spring, has spent \$20,433 and has \$109,683 on hand for the final weeks of the campaign. His opponent, Democrat Jara C. Uzenda, has spent \$3,760 and has \$2,622 on hand. _ Sen. Billy O'Dell of Ware Shoals switched parties a year ago. The owner of O'Dell Mop Co. has spent \$20,603 and has \$39,162 on hand. The Senate Ethics Committee says Jay West, O'Dell's opponent, had not filed a report by Wednesday afternoon.

October 22, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

The chairman of the state Republican Party says Democrats set the tone for a rough-and-tumble ad war in the U.S. Senate race with a mailing this summer that plays on fears of a military draft. The mailing, sent out this summer, included a voter registration form. The first page showed a draft notice with orders to report to a Pittsburgh military induction center. The next showed a helicopter with troops in the foreground beneath a headline that says "Officials in Washington are calling for more troops in Iraq." Below, the mailing asked "Which form would you rather fill out?" "This set the tone early on," state Republican Party Chairman Katon Dawson told state Democratic Party Chairman Joe Erwin during a taping of WIS-TV's Newswatch. The program, taped Wednesday, will air Sunday. The mailing's message was "if you don't register to vote, they imply that you're going to sign up for the war, for the draft," Dawson said. Erwin stood by the mailing, saying a military draft is a legitimate concern for young voters to weigh. "I'm proud of this piece," Erwin said. In the mailing, "we targeted especially young black men," Erwin said. In wars, "who is often going? It is the poor. It is the less educated that are going to fight the wars." War and draft fears have become part of this year's presidential race. In a National Annenberg Election Survey earlier this month, 51 percent of adults age 18 to 29 said President Bush wants to reinstate the draft. A fourth of those polled said neither Bush nor his opponent, U.S. Sen. John Kerry, favors the idea. Neither candidate supports a military draft. Bush has accused Kerry of scare tactics and insisted he would not bring back the military draft, even if there were a crisis with North Korea or Iran. "I believe we've got the assets and manpower necessary to be able to deal with another theater should one arise," Bush said. Kerry says re-electing President Bush would create "the great potential of a draft." "This is a mischievous political effort that's being made to frighten young men and women," Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld said Tuesday. "The truth is we do not need a draft. We're not going to have a draft." Two weeks ago, the House defeated a bill that would have helped create a draft with a 402-2 vote. That was seen as a way of squashing draft fears that have swirled around the Internet for more than a year.

October 22, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

A federal judge's temporary restraining order means a Republican group may put back on the air television ads criticizing Democratic Gov. Mike Easley. The ads had been banned by the state's Democrat-controlled elections board. U.S. District Court Judge Terrence Boyle issued the order Thursday, after the Republican Governors Association filed suit to get its ads on the air in North Carolina before Election Day. A full hearing is scheduled for Monday in federal court in Raleigh. The RGA is asking the court to rule that the elections board unconstitutionally applied two state laws in the association's case. It also wants a permanent injunction allowing the ads to air. Boyle's temporary order puts on hold any enforcement action by the State Board of Elections at least until Monday's hearing. "The timing of these events, 12 days before the general election, establishes that plaintiffs may suffer an immediate and irreparable injury before notice can be served and a hearing held" on the request, Boyle wrote. The RGA, which is supporting Easley's challenger, Republican Patrick Ballantine, alleges the elections board is treating it differently from a similar Democratic group that was allowed to run advertisements in the governor's race. RGA leaders say they are not getting a fair shake because all three Democrats on the five-member board, including chairman Larry Leake, have donated to Easley's campaign. The lawsuit seeks "to remedy an unfortunate abuse of power by the North Carolina elections board," RGA executive director Ed Tobin said. Democratic board members are blocking the RGA's ads for "purely partisan purposes before the election," he said. The three Democrats voted last month to fine the RGA nearly \$200,000 for airing an advertisement supporting Republican gubernatorial candidate Patrick Ballantine. Last week, the board agreed in a similar 3-2 vote to block an RGA ad critical of Easley's record. The RGA had agreed to spend nearly \$500,000 on the ad purchase in three television markets. In both cases, the rulings against the ads came after complaints by the state Democratic Party, which said the ads were unlawful because they focused on promotion of specific candidates, and not issues. The board this month failed to take action against the State Capitol Media Project, which seeks to elect Democratic governors after a complaint by the North Carolina Republican Party. Democratic board members said the Project's ad, which mentioned Ballantine, did not cross the threshold of being unlawful. The RGA and the Project are both so-called 527 groups, named after the federal tax code that applies to them. Such groups have become key election players this year, as new federal campaign finance laws do not limit donations to them, but any advertising they do is supposed to be limited to issues.

October 22, 2004 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

South Carolina's health agencies can do more to collect more money and information from clients, according to a follow-up audit released Thursday. The Legislative Audit Council reviewed the state's eight health and human service agencies in January and found the departments of Mental Health and Health and Environmental Control failed to adequately collect money from clients for some services. The follow-up report found little improvement. The issue came up recently at Gov. Mark Sanford's budget hearing with health agencies. Agency directors defended the lack of collections. "We certainly understand where the LAC is coming from. We certainly want to get dollars back," DHEC Commissioner Earl Hunter said. "But at the same time we just don't want to discourage people from coming in." The agency helps treat sexually transmitted diseases, pregnancies and tuberculosis. If some diseases go untreated and become more widespread, the cost could be even greater to the state in the long run, said Hunter, who also was concerned about privacy issues when making collections. Mental Health Department Director George Gintoli said during the budget hearing that many people his agency serves cannot work while hospitalized or at community treatment centers. The department has hired a staff member to monitor collections and also began making the names of recently deceased clients available for claims to be filed against estates. The January audit recommended, above all, that the departments be restructured under a secretary who could be held accountable for their performances. That has not happened. The follow-up said the General Assembly considered several bills last session that addressed restructuring health agencies but failed to pass one. Five of eight agencies reviewed in the audit are not in the governor's Cabinet, and "there is no single point of accountability," according to the follow-up. Restructuring could cut administrative costs, eliminate duplication and improve services, the governor and LAC have said. Sanford will again make restructuring health agencies a priority during the upcoming legislative session. But his spokesman Will Folks said there may be a different strategy to gaining approval. "The goals are obviously the same," Folks said.

DESCRIPTION:

For the third time in three decades, business interests and local governments are asking North Carolina voters to amend the state constitution to make it easier for local governments to issue debt in connection with certain projects. After seeing voters reject similar amendments in 1982 and 1993, backers of Amendment One hope the third time is the charm Nov. 2. Supporters are selling the change as a job-development tool in a state that has seen thousands of jobs lost in the textile and furniture industries in recent years. They say so-called self-financing bonds - called tax-increment financing by opponents - would help generate new jobs and invigorate aging downtowns without higher overall property tax rates. "It gives us an invaluable financing tool to revive especially blighted areas," said Charlotte Mayor Pat McCrory, adding that Arizona and North Carolina are the only states that don't allow the borrowing method. McCrory acknowledges the complexity of the proposal is the biggest obstacle in the way of its passage. "If you ask 99 percent of the voters, they don't understand this on either side," he said. Opponents say that's why voters should vote no on Amendment One - labeled such because it's the first amendment of three on the ballot. They say the Legislature's ballot statement explaining the measure is confusing and misleading. "Most people will not vote for something that they don't understand," said Chris Neeley, state director for Americans for Prosperity, which is leading the opposition. If approved, Neeley said, the amendment would remove citizens' constitutional right to vote on debt incurred by their local government. Amendment One proponents respond that other projects would still require voter approval and no one's rights would be eliminated. The change would allow local governments to issue bonds to finance public infrastructure improvements in special property tax districts surrounding privately funded community development projects - like a convention center, tourist attraction or new business. Bonds would not require a vote of the people before being issued. Increased property tax revenue generated within the special district could then be used to pay off the debt issued to make the improvements. Once the debt is retired, the increased property tax revenues would go back into the general revenue stream. Amendment One supporters cite success stories nationwide for this kind of financing, including the conversion of an old railroad station in Columbia, S.C., into business and commercial development. The city of Salisbury has said it could use self-financing bonds to lure a private developer to renovate the downtown Empire Hotel, which closed decades ago. Bonds would be issues to improve parking lots, sidewalks and a the sewer system, Mayor Susan Kluttz said. "What we would be spending the city money for would be for the public," she said. Supporters say the state's Local Government Commission would limit when self-financing bonds could be issued and control the scope of special property tax districts. Those restrictions aren't enough, according to opponents, who cite studies that say the jobs created by such projects are generally low-paying. "There is no proof that this is an economic development tool," said Chad Adams with the conservative-leaning John Locke Foundation. Even if revenues grow within the special tax district, the gains can't be used to meet the increased demand for government services that is sure to result, said Adams, who is also a Lee County commissioner. As a result, property taxes must be raised everywhere else to make up the difference, he said. Charlotte-based Bank of America Corp., as well as other companies and individuals, is bankrolling the pro-Amendment One campaign, which has aired two television ads. Former Govs. Jim Hunt and Jim Holshouser are among more than 300 groups and local governments that have endorsed the amendment. Opponents went on a multi-city airplane tour this week to unveil their own TV ad. Former Supreme Court Justice Bob Orr is among the high-profile opponents. Another ballot proposal, Amendment Two, would clarify how civil fines and forfeitures are distributed to the public schools. If approved, the constitution would affirm that the state can collect these civil penalties and disburse them statewide on a per-pupil basis. The proposal follows a lawsuit by several local school boards that contended the fines should be returned to the counties where they originate, as criminal penalties do. And Amendment Three asks voters to decide whether magistrates should serve four-year terms after an initial two-year appointment. Currently, the senior resident judge in each Superior Court district can appoint magistrates only to two-year terms. The change is sought by the North Carolina Magistrates Association, whose president argues it would serve as a recruitment and retention tool for young magistrates while taking politics out of the process. "This is just one step maybe to entice an individual to stick in there and stay longer," said Lionel Gilbert, a Polk County magistrate. Starting salaries for magistrates, who work at the entry level of the judicial profession, are only about \$28,000, he said. **ON THE NET:** Amendment One supporters: <http://www.amendmentone.org>; Amendment One opponents:

<http://www.noamendmentone.org>; N.C. chapter of Americans for Prosperity:
<http://www.americansforprosperity.org/nc/>

October 23, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

Retired teacher Patsy Keever would like nothing better than to be the Democrat who finally knocks off veteran 11th District congressman Charles Taylor, who has represented the mountains of western North Carolina since 1990. Taylor, a Brevard timber magnate who is seeking his eighth term, has done little campaigning this year and continues to be dogged by controversy. But he remains a giant in this mostly conservative district and a favorite for re-election. Still, Keever believes there is an upset in the making. "We feel very confident," she said in a recent phone interview during a break from campaigning. "We've been talking to the people for the past 10 months and I get a feeling of enthusiasm." Keever, who has served for 12 years on the board of commissioners in the district's most populous county, Buncombe, believes it is time for voters to retire Taylor. "His priorities are wrong and he's not taking care of western North Carolina," she said. "He has supported the outsourcing of American jobs and he's not protecting our jobs. He's not doing the right things for this district." Taylor staffers did not make the congressman available for an interview, despite repeated requests by The Associated Press. In a statement posted earlier this month on his Web site, Taylor said he wants to continue to serve the needs of constituents. "My reason for serving you in Congress has always been single-minded: to improve the lives of the people of western North Carolina," he said. "For a region to prosper, education must be the central focus. Many of the federal appropriations I have fought to obtain address the critical work force issues that face western North Carolina - for those who drive our economy today, as well as tomorrow's new generation of workers." In a recent interview with the Asheville Citizen-Times, Taylor said he has helped bring millions of federal dollars to the district to promote technology and higher paying jobs during his current term. He also cited the modernization of Asheville's Veterans Administration Medical Center as a primary achievement during his tenure. "I am proud to say that the Asheville facility is now one of the finest in the country," he wrote in a separate letter to the newspaper. "It took \$75 million and those funds did not come from the tooth fairy, as my opponent would have you believe." Keever argues Taylor has done little to stem the loss of thousands of jobs in the 11th District, which includes the liberal urban haven of Asheville and conservative surrounding mountain counties. According to Keever, the region has lost more than 5,000 blue-collar jobs since early 2003. "He has supported the tax policies of the Bush administration, allowing businesses to incorporate in offshore tax-free havens," she said. "All of this is not bringing in new jobs to western North Carolina." Keever said she would support getting rid of tax breaks for companies that send jobs overseas and offering tax incentives to manufacturers who create jobs in the United States. She also favors congressional review of trade agreements to make sure they are fair to American workers. She also attacked Taylor for his support of a proposal to replace the federal income tax with a 23 percent national sales tax. "This would hit families and seniors and low-income people and those living on a fixed income, she said. "We have a lot of them in western North Carolina." And her criticism of Taylor's votes on bills affecting the military touched a raw nerve with the congressman, who issued a rebuttal noting that his son is serving in the Army in Iraq. "This is one of the dirtiest campaign tactics I have seen anywhere in this country," Taylor said in a statement. One thing Keever won't attack Taylor on is the controversies that have plagued him this decade. Taylor had an extended run-in with the Jackson County tax collector, who tried to garnish Taylor's congressional wages to settle over \$14,000 in unpaid taxes. Taylor has said his tree farm recently paid the tax bill. And during a criminal trial last year, two longtime political associates, Charles "Chig" Cagle and Hayes Martin, testified that Taylor knew of fraudulent loans made to Cagle by the Asheville-based bank he chairs, Blue Ridge Savings. Taylor has denied any knowledge of the loans. "We are focusing on the issues," Keever said. "There's way too much negativism in politics so we want to focus on the positive and hit him on the issues." Keever said she offers herself as one of the people, not a Washington politician. "The people want someone they can relate to and they are tired of the Washington politicians," she said. "I was a teacher for 25 years and I've worked for things like the United Way campaign. I've had a lot of life experiences that they can relate to" Keever said. "I can understand and I care about what happens to them."

October 24, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

Jim DeMint's commanding lead the U.S. Senate race has evaporated during the past month, a new independent poll shows. The Mason-Dixon Polling & Research Inc. poll shows the Republican U.S. House member at 47 percent and Inez Tenenbaum, his Democratic opponent, at 43 percent. That's within the 4 percentage point margin of sampling error for the telephone poll of 625 likely voters statewide interviewed Tuesday and Wednesday by Mason-Dixon for The Post and Courier of Charleston. The paper reported on Oct. 3 that a Mason-Dixon poll had DeMint at 50 percent and the two-term education superintendent at 38 percent in the race to replace retiring U.S. Sen. Ernest "Fritz" Hollings and help decide control of the U.S. Senate. "DeMint is still ahead," Mason-Dixon pollster Brad Coker says. "It was going to be a pretty easy victory, but he certainly has made the race harder than he had to." The past three weeks have been marked by Tenenbaum and independent groups pouring money into ads that question DeMint's support of a bill that would replace personal income and payroll taxes with a 23 percent national sales tax. In the poll, about 62 percent of respondents opposed that plan and 25 percent supported it. DeMint also surprised voters by saying in a debate he supported a state GOP platform plank barring gays from teaching in public schools. A few days later, DeMint defended that remark by telling a newspaper that single pregnant women with live-in boyfriends should be barred from the classroom, too. But 52 percent of the people responding to the new Mason-Dixon poll oppose the Republican Party's plank and 34 percent said they supported it. Coker says DeMint's best chance for victory is to ride hard on Bush's coattails and to not "put his foot in his mouth again." With Tenenbaum's negatives pretty high among voters, "Bush might get him over the hump," Coker said. DeMint has aired a spot featuring President Bush supporting him in his 2002 bid for a third U.S. House term. But Tenenbaum is trying to clip the coattails, frequently criticizes DeMint for spending too much time linking his campaign to Bush and not standing on his own. She describes herself an independent and has not courted public support from U.S. Sen. John Kerry in the presidential race.

October 25, 2004

10:00PM

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

Thousands of upstate workers will be jobless when they vote next Tuesday. But when they step to the polls the power will be in their hands, choosing who to hire or fire for the next few years. Rumors of job cuts at the Estes Plant in Piedmont had been flying around for years. No one really thought it'd happen just before the holidays and with very little warning. But the fact that it happened right before a major election makes the situation all the more serious. Johnny Cantrell says, "No, I had no idea but this is moving very rapidly. The whole situation has really magnified". For 26 years Cantrell worked at the Estes plant. In less than a month he'll be out of a job. His retirement plans have to change and major decisions about his 401-k are in the works. Now, more than ever, he has a lot riding on who he votes for next Tuesday. "Its going to be a major dilemma, I have to tighten the belt, cutback and take it day by day, week by week", says Cantrell. Cantrell isn't the only one scrambling to fix the mess he finds himself in. 120 workers in Oconee County also learned last week the plant they work at is closing down. And the trend is obvious. Last year, Kemet announced nearly 300 jobs cut from the Fountain Inn and Simpsonville facilities. In 2002-- General Electric cut 35-hundred jobs from the upstate. When Cantrell learned last week his job had been cut he didn't know who he was going to vote for. With eight days until the vote, he's still undecided. Cantrell says, "One of the candidates is going to really have to persuade me they're really going to stand behind all aspects of the American worker".

October 26, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

Still wondering where to go to vote next Tuesday? About half of Greenville County's 216,000 registered voters have been moved to new voting precincts. The problem is that the voter registration cards haven't all arrived, which means lots of voters

don't know where to go to cast their ballot. A computer glitch delayed the mailing of about 84,000 registration cards. The last of the registration cards were mailed over the weekend. If you haven't received your card, it should be in your mailbox by Wednesday.

November 8, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

An Anderson County Council member is suing the county administrator over access to the county's legal records. Cindy Wilson, a council member since 2001, says she has been trying to figure out why Anderson County is spending more than other counties on legal fees. It's part of an ongoing fight with County Administrator Joey Preston to open records, she said. On Wednesday, Wilson asked a court to force Preston to give her access to the county's financial records. She's particularly interested in how much was paid to the McNair Law Firm in Columbia. Tom Martin, a McNair lawyer who acts as the county's attorney, said the lawsuit had not been served and would not comment on it. Martin said the county was billed \$182,201 for 1,058 hours of his time last year. Wilson's lawsuit is one of many she's filed in efforts to stop a sewer line project from running through her family's land, Preston said. So far, it is "over \$400,000 we've had to spend defending lawsuits just on the sewer lines," he said. Wilson lost those challenges, but the lawsuits sparked delays that cost the county big development projects, he said. Preston sued Wilson and others in federal court in September, saying they invaded his privacy by illegally obtaining information on a car he owns. The lawsuit says Wilson and others prompted a State Law Enforcement Division investigation that targeted him. "To me, it's more personal than anything else," Preston said. In her lawsuit, Wilson says she was denied copies of the county's general ledger. The lawsuit said Preston called the request a "waste of taxpayer dollars and county time, manpower and resources." Preston's July 6 letter, attached to the lawsuit, said Wilson would get the general ledger information October. The letter shows he charged county council \$965, or 25 cents a page, for other general ledger copies. Wilson says there should be no charge to review that kind of information. She says her role on council makes her accountable for knowing what's in the records and watching the county's spending. She resorted to filing a Freedom of Information request for some records, including details on legal spending. When Wilson wanted a detailed accounting of legal expenses, Preston's assistant told her that would cost \$673.17. But after Wilson paid that, Preston wrote and said she owed \$2,470.56 more to cover the costs of unstapling, redacting, copying and restapling the papers as well as the time 11 county workers spent redacting the detailed information she wanted. Under the state's Freedom of Information Act, "I don't believe there can be charges for redaction," said Wilson's lawyer, Jay Bender. Martin says the county has been willing to share records that show how many hours lawyers worked and what they billed. But "portions of those records are protected by the attorney-client privilege," he said. County Council is the client, not Wilson by herself, meaning the whole county council would have to agree to releasing that information, Martin said. But "a county councilman is responsible for spending of public money ... and we're responsible for the action or lack of action by our administrator," Wilson said.

December 2, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

Legislators spent the last two days in Columbia in an organizational session that changed little in the House leadership structure. On Tuesday, Democrats elected Rep. Harry Ott, D-St. Matthews, as chairman of the House Minority Caucus. Ott, a Calhoun County farmer, replaces Rep. James Smith, D-Columbia, as the Democrats' leader. While there's been a lot of talk after the Nov. 2 election about Democrats moving more to the center, Ott says he's long been there. "That's certainly where I am. I'm a pretty conservative person. I'm very conservative when it comes to my finances. I bring my Christian values to my job every day," Ott said. Too often, Ott said, Democrats have "allowed the Republicans to put out who we are as Democrats. ... My job is to identify who we are as Democrats." Republicans, who control the House by a 74-50 margin, started the two-day session with Rep. James Merrill, R-Daniel Island, as chairman of the House GOP caucus. Republicans elected Merrill in October to

replace Rep. Rick Quinn of Columbia, who resigned from the position in September after losing a primary election for the seat he held since 1989. Legislators received committee assignments Wednesday and then elected committee chairmen with Republicans holding nine of those 10 spots. There was no change in command of the committees. _ Rep. Joe Brown, D-Columbia, won another term as chairman of the Medical, Military, Public and Municipal Affairs Committee. He's held that job since 1994. _ Rep. Harry Cato, R-Travelers Rest, won re-election as chairman of the Labor, Commerce and Industry Committee. It's his sixth term running the committee that oversees most of the business-related legislation that moves through the House. _ Rep. Converse Chellis, R-Summerville, won a third term as Rules Committee chairman. The committee sets the rules that the House uses to manage debate, legislation and members. _ Rep. Bobby Harrell, R-Charleston, gets a third term as chairman of the Ways and Means Committee. The House budget writing committee also handles most legislation dealing with spending and borrowing. _ Rep. Jim Harrison, R-Columbia, will serve his sixth term as House Judiciary Committee chairmen. The committee handles most of the legislation affecting criminal and civil law in the state. _ Rep. Bob Leach, R-Taylors, will serve his second term as chairman of the Invitations and Memorial Resolutions Committee. _ Rep. Roland Smith, R-Warrenton, won his first full term as Ethics Committee chairman. The committee monitors campaign and other financial disclosures and enforces ethics laws for House members. _ Rep. Ronnie Townsend, R-Anderson, will serve a sixth term as Education and Public Works Committee chairman. _ Rep. Lewis Vaughn, R-Greer, has a sixth term running Operations and Management Committee. The committee oversees financial operations and personnel in the House office building. _ Rep. Billy Witherspoon, R-Conway, will serve his second term as chairman of the Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs Committee.

December 3, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

The State Election Commission tonight upheld a Senate election that confirmed incumbent Senator Phil Leventis the winner by a narrow margin. The commission spent most of today hearing an appeal by Republican challenger Dickie Jones. The last recount showed Leventis won by 86 votes. Lawyers for Jones told the commission that there were more ballots cast than there were signatures by voters on Election Day. But Sumter County voter registration director Pat Jefferson says the numbers Jones' attorneys are using are --not-- official. Jones says he will --not-- appeal. Leventis has held the seat since 1981. The Senate seat includes parts of Lee and Sumter counties.

December 8, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

Almost 30 domestic violence groups across the state and nation are following a case heard in North Carolina's Supreme Court about an Asheville bus driver who was fired after his wife shot him. James Edwards Imes, a bus driver and dispatcher with the city of Asheville was fired in 2001 after his wife, Sandra, shot him in the stomach. Imes, who turned 59 this year, died over the summer of an unrelated illness. But the case is still in court because advocates are looking for precedent-setting workplace protections for victims of domestic violence. Twenty-nine domestic violence groups have signed on in support of Imes. "Economic security is one of the most important factors of whether a victim of domestic violence will be able to separate effectively from an abuser," said Deborah Widiss, a staff attorney for Legal Momentum, a national women's rights organization. "Certainly a court has not stated explicitly that firing someone for being a victim is against the law. This is a good place to establish the case law." The "at-will" employment doctrine, followed by North Carolina and most other states, is at the heart of the case. It allows employers to fire anyone at will, unless state law explicitly forbids it or unless doing so would violate the state's public policy. It is that latter exception that lawyers for Imes used Tuesday before the state Supreme Court. His attorneys argued that although domestic violence victims are not an explicitly protected class, allowing them to be fired thwarts the state's efforts to end such violence. They argued that North Carolina has a long history of protecting victims of domestic violence. One state measure allows unemployment benefits for victims who lose their jobs or must quit; another, passed this year, prohibits employers from discriminating against victims who need time to go to court to seek domestic-violence protective orders. "What we're saying is: You've already made clear that you can't discriminate against people for going to court," Widiss said. "It doesn't make sense if you can discriminate against them just for being a victim." Lawyers for Asheville and its transit contractor, CCL Management Inc., argued Tuesday that to diminish employers' rights to fire for any reason would make North Carolina a less

hospitable place to do business. State law prohibits firing on the basis of a few categories, including race and sex. It should be left up to the Legislature to expand that list with explicit laws, the lawyers said. "Everyone has sympathy for victims of domestic violence," said Fred Hamlet, a Greensboro lawyer representing the bus company. "However, we're a society ruled by law. And the best place to make that law is in the General Assembly, not the court." A court decision is not likely for several months.

December 20, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

Gov. Mark Sanford said Monday that his executive budget for the next fiscal year would include an extra \$23 million to keep state worker health insurance premiums from going up. Sanford said he also would take money from stepped-up tax collection efforts to replenish the state health plan's reserves. State employees have seen premium increases every year since the 1999-2000 fiscal year and the health plan's reserve fund of \$164 million dollars in 1996 has been almost depleted, Sanford said in a news release. "I'd simply say this to all the hard working state employees out there - it's past time that your government prioritized spending and stopped passing this cost on to you," Sanford said. The governor plans to release various parts of his executive budget during the coming weeks. Last week, he announced his plan to allocate \$54 million in next year's budget to pay for 425 new law enforcement officers and equipment such as metal detectors for South Carolina prisons. His spending priorities are suggestions that lawmakers can use in writing their own budget when the General Assembly reconvenes in January. Even if the Legislature agreed to Sanford's plan, that wouldn't affect the proposed rate increase that starts next month. The Budget and Control Board approved the increase and benefit changes this summer to help make up an estimated \$132 million increase in the cost of the state health plan next year. For single workers, premiums will increase \$23.96 a month to \$93.46; for an employee and spouse, the rate will increase \$47.92 to \$237.50; for an employee and children, the rate will increase \$35.94 to \$142.46; and for a full family, the rate will increase \$59.99 to \$294.67.

December 20, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

The South Carolina Supreme Court has rejected a lawsuit that claimed a woman was denied the option to abort her disabled son because she was not told about the condition. Jennie Willis of Marion County contends she would have legally aborted had she known when she was pregnant that most of his brain was missing, said her lawyer, O. Fayrell Furr Jr. of Myrtle Beach. The lawsuit was filed by Willis on behalf of her now 8-year-old son, Thomas. "This child cannot feel love; this child cannot express love," Furr said. "He has enough brain tissue to keep him alive but not enough to know his mother exists. ... She would not want her child to ... live that existence." But the state's high court unanimously ruled Monday it recognizes the "extremely severe nature" of the boy's impairment, but it could not accept the "wrongful life" claim. "Even a jury collectively imbued with the wisdom of Solomon would be unable to weigh the fact of being born with a defective condition against the fact of not being born at all," Associate Justice E.C. Burnett of Spartanburg wrote for the court. "It is simply beyond the human experience." South Carolina joins 27 other states, including Georgia and North Carolina, that either reject or limit the "wrongful life" claim, the court said. California, Washington and New Jersey are the only states that allow such claims; the remaining states haven't taken a position. Willis contended in court papers that Dr. Donald S. Wu, an obstetrician-gynecologist, failed to tell her about her son's condition in 1995 before the 24-week deadline under state law to have a legal abortion. Wu in court papers said at the 22-week stage he informed Willis after her third ultrasound examination of a potential problem and ordered another test by a fetal specialist in Charleston. But she refused to go, even after another examination a week later showed her son "lacked any significant brain," he said in court papers. "The question I posed to the court was, 'Where do you draw the line?'" said Stephen Brown, Wu's Charleston lawyer. "Is it (for example) a Down Syndrome case or a child who takes 20 diabetic shots a day?" The boy eventually was diagnosed with maximal hydrocephalus, a condition in which the brain's cerebral hemispheres which control thinking, speaking, motor control and the ability to interact with others are missing. The condition is characterized by an accumulation of fluid in the head. Nationally, hydrocephalus is believed to occur in about two out of 1,000 births, according to the Hydrocephalus Association's Web site. In South Carolina, there were 1,279 children with the condition from 1999 through 2001, according to the state Budget and Control study. Willis cares full time for her son at home, with help from her mother, Furr said. She still plans to pursue her own separate claim that Wu failed

to inform her about her son's condition, Furr said. A trial is set for May in Marion County. The Supreme Court did not rule on that issue in Monday's ruling. An anti-abortion activist hailed the ruling. "There are better ways, there are positive alternatives to dealing with people with disabilities than to get rid of them," said Holly Gatling, executive director of South Carolina Citizens for Life. This child was born less than perfect, but I would say who of us is not?" There were about 380,000 children with special mental or physical health needs living in South Carolina from 1999 through 2001, according to a study by the S.C. Budget and Control Board. Brian Lewis, spokesman for Planned Parenthood of South Carolina, said Monday that expectant mothers should always be told, if possible, whether their children might be born with disabilities so they can decide whether to keep the child, seek adoption or have an abortion. "It's up to that woman (to determine) where she is in her life, what her needs are, what she can or cannot handle," he said.

December 21, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

U.S. Sen.-elect Jim DeMint said Monday he was pleased with his committee assignments for the 109th Congress. When DeMint, R-S.C., is sworn in next month, he will serve on the Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation, the Committee on Environment and Public Works, the Joint Economic Committee and the Special Committee on Aging. "These committees will put me in a position to work on important legislation impacting South Carolina and our nation," DeMint said. DeMint succeeds retiring Democratic Sen. Ernest "Fritz" Hollings, who will leave Washington after serving 38 years. "Sen. Hollings has served on Commerce for many years and I'm glad to continue to represent South Carolina on the committee," DeMint said.

December 21, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

South Carolina has received more than \$2 million in federal funds to help give food and shelter homeless people. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security for Emergency Preparedness and Response announced Monday the state will receive \$2,493,358 for 2005. The money will be used to support social service agencies that provide food, shelter, rent, mortgage and utility assistance for people with non-disaster related emergencies.

December 21, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

Gov. Mike Easley supports a Raleigh attorney and party veteran to lead North Carolina Democrats for the next two years, an aide said Monday. "The governor is very supportive of Ed Turlington to be the next chairman," said Mac McCorkle of Durham, a political adviser to Easley. Turlington, 47, who has worked with Terry Sanford, Jim Hunt and John Edwards, said he would work to elevate the party's voice in national circles and bolster party coffers. The State Democratic Executive Committee must approve a successor to Barbara Allen, who will step down next year. Other Democrats have expressed an interest in the job, including Jerry Meek, the party's first vice chairman from Fayetteville, and David Parker, a Democratic National Committee member from Statesville. Even so, a governor's choice to head the party has not been rejected in recent memory. The party chairman would oversee efforts to keep the General Assembly in Democratic hands, help push Easley's agenda, and ensure fund-raising is strong. "It is a unique moment in the state party's history where we have a chance to lead nationally," Turlington said Monday. "Gov. Easley is one of the leading Democratic governors and is already part of an effort to work with the national party leadership." Turlington noted that U.S. Rep. David Price, of Chapel Hill, leads a committee considering the Democrats' presidential primary process, and that Mel Watt of Charlotte is chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus. Turlington said presidential politics should not be read into his choice. He said he supports Edwards' seeking the presidency in 2008, a decision he believes is likely a couple years away. He also said it would be "a stretch" to view his selection as an effort by Easley to position himself for a presidential run.

Attachments



Jobs, Economy, Growth

PROGRAMS ADDRESSING PROBLEM/NEED
FOURTH QUARTER 2004

Problem/Need: **JOBS/ECONOMY**

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>PROGRAM</u>
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Sundays 5:30 am BUSINESS WEEK
(airs weekly)

DESCRIPTION: Up-to-the-minute reports present an interpretation of each week's business and financial news for the average viewer and summarize the key economic events from around the world that directly affect every consumer in America. (30:00)

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>PROGRAM</u>
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October 5, 2004	10:00PM	The Ten O'clock News
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DESCRIPTION:

A company that makes plastic automotive parts plans to invest \$30 million add 100 jobs at its plant in Anderson County, officials said Tuesday. Plastic Omnium, which has had a plant in the county since 1994, now employs more than 450 workers, said John Lummus, the county's economic development director. The county council voted to give first-round approval to an incentive package that would reduce the company's property taxes and allow the company to use 30 percent of its property taxes for improvements at the plant. Plastic Omnium supplies bumpers, fenders, body panels, and body modules to BMW and a host of small manufacturers in the county, including Fraenkische and Inergy Automotive Systems.

October 18, 2004	10:00pm	The Ten O'clock News
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DESCRIPTION:

An Oconee County manufacturer is closing in a move that will leave 122 employees without jobs. Piedmont Home Textile Corp. said Monday it will close the plant it has operated here for more than 20 years. The plant, which makes quilts and comforters, once employed as many as 600 workers. "Unfortunately, trade imports have led to decreased demand for our products and an inability to compete," said plant manager Hal Hart. The plant closing is to be completed by Dec. 17. The announcement comes shortly after WestPoint Stevens' announcement that it will lay off 210 workers before the end of the year at its Clemson plant, also in Oconee County. WestPoint Stevens is among Oconee County's largest employers with about 1,800 workers in three manufacturing facilities at its complex across the Seneca River from Clemson University. Jim Alexander, Oconee County's executive director of the Economic Development Commission, said it would be hard to calculate the impact of the 330 lost jobs at the two companies. He said Oconee County's current unemployment rate was 8 percent.

October 22, 2004	10:00pm	The Ten O'clock News
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DESCRIPTION:

Delta Woodside Industries Inc. plans to lay off 361 workers when its Piedmont textile plant is closed as part of a company plan to cut costs. The plant, bought by Delta Woodside in 1986, will close within the next 30 days, company officials said Wednesday. Officials said the company also will move its headquarters from Greenville to Fountain Inn. Some Piedmont workers will be offered positions at that plant, but most will have to look for new jobs, said plant manager Boyd Sexton, who also lost his job. Delta Woodside sells finished apparel fabrics to branded apparel makers and resellers. The company's work force will shrink to about 1,100 after the cost-cutting measures, company officials said. The company has reported declining revenues in the past several years. The unincorporated Piedmont community formed as a textile mill town around four plants owned by Piedmont Manufacturing Co., a company that gained distinction in the 1880s, said Donna Roper, interim director of the Pendleton District Historical Recreational and Tourism Commission.

October 22, 2004 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

The state's unemployment rate rose to 6.9 percent in September, up from 6.4 percent in August. South Carolina's jobless rate remains well above the national rate of 5.4 percent. The South Carolina Employment Security Commission said a loss in tourism and construction jobs led to the state's unemployment rate increase. More than 3,000 jobs in the leisure and hospitality industry were cut as the tourism season ended, and a busy hurricane season contributed to larger-than-normal layoffs in construction, the commission said. The centers of four tropical systems crossed into South Carolina this year for the first time in more than a century. Hurricane Charley and Tropical Storm Gaston made landfall in Charleston County, and the remnants of Jeanne and Bonnie tracked through the state. The employment commission said education and government employment increased by 18,100 jobs. Marlboro County had the state's highest unemployment rate at 17.7 percent, down from 18.9 percent in August. Beaufort County had the lowest unemployment rate in the state at 3.3 percent, up from 3.1 in August.

November 3, 2004 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

Officials with Greenville Hospital System say 57 employees have been laid off and others' hours have been cut back in a cost-saving effort. The layoffs affected employees in departments including HeartLife, administration, pastoral care and finance, said Doug Dorman, vice president of human resources. Most were support positions and not involved in direct patient care, Dorman said. After 24 accepted other positions at the hospital system and four took part-time jobs, the net loss was 29 employees, he said. No additional job cuts are planned, Dorman said. Another 85 vacant positions won't be filled, although the hospital continues to advertise for 151 full-time employees. The hospital also reduced the work week of more than 100 other employees from 40 hours to 37.5 hours, Dorman said. The move was made after patient volumes in certain areas such as laboratory and radiology weren't as high as projected, he said. Nurses were not affected. Hospital officials said the actual amount that will be saved by the measures is not known. Dorman said the hospital system faces higher pharmaceutical and insurance costs, as well as increasing charity care and bad debt.

November 10, 2004 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

Beverage Air will close its Honea Path plant next year and eliminate 200 jobs. The company, located in the Honea Path-Abbeville Industrial Complex, makes large refrigerators and coolers used in ice cream shops and other businesses. "This is going to have a huge impact on our community," Honea Path Mayor Lollis Meyers said. Some workers will be laid off in January, while others will stay until July, Abbeville County Economic Development Office director Jamie Gilbert said. Half of the plant's operations will be moved to an existing facility in Pennsylvania and the other half to Mexico, Gilbert said. The plant has operated since 1996 and added 90 jobs with a \$2 million expansion in 2001. Headquartered in Spartanburg, Beverage Air is a unit of Carrier Co. of Syracuse, N.Y.

November 11, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

A boat motor castings plant that's one of Mitchell County's top employers is up for sale, company officials said. Bombardier Recreation Products Inc. joins the 100-employee Cherokee County Bombardier plant, which has been for sale for about three months, a corporate spokesman said. Combined, the two plants employ about 200 people in a regional manufacturing sector increasingly stressed by trade, competition and rising material costs. "We're holding our breath about what's going to happen to Bombardier and Coats American (another plant for sale)," said Dana Jones, chairman of the Cherokee County commissioners. Bombardier's sale, announced Tuesday, won't lead to immediate local layoffs, said Pierre Pichette, vice president of communications and public affairs. He said the corporation intends to keep the plants open until sales are completed and new owners take over. In making the announcement earlier this week, Canadian-based Bombardier also said it plans to eliminate about 800 jobs worldwide. About 600 of those are in Canadian facilities. One hundred others will be in the United States, and the remainder will be in other countries. "Spruce Pine and Andrews are the kind of specialized work we would like other people to do for us," Pichette said. "We will definitely focus on the right people to buy these because we are interested in buying from them in the long term." The news could hit Mitchell County particularly hard. The rural, mountainous county northeast of Asheville has suffered tremendous economic blows recently. In September, Henredon Furniture Industries, the county's second-largest private employer, said it would close. Company officials said layoffs could begin in November. "You feel like the shoe is always about to drop," said Van Phillips, executive director of the Mitchell County Economic Development Commission. "(But) we're trying to look at it positively - that they're still there and are going to (remain) there." TEAM Industries, a Minnesota-based producer of power-train and chassis components for recreational and industrial off-highway vehicles, has expressed interest in the Cherokee County facility, Pichette said.

November 17, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

Duke Power plans to spend as much as \$40 million in the next four years on economic development programs to reverse the loss of manufacturing jobs in the Upstate. The Charlotte, N.C., utility, outlined plans for its AdvanceSC program Monday in Spartanburg. The company, which is the Upstate's biggest power provider, plans to make cash grants to schools, manufacturers and economic development organizations to protect and increase the number of manufacturing companies, which are quickly disappearing in the Upstate as the textiles industry declines. Duke Power was founded to support the textiles industry a century ago. "We can't simply sit still and lose all manufacturing," Duke Power President Ruth Shaw told about 200 business officials at a forum in Spartanburg. Shaw said the company could provide \$10 million a year for four years to South Carolina. Duke has pledged half its revenue from certain excess power sales into the wholesale market for this year and the next three years to fund the initiative. The first \$650,000 each year would go to public assistance programs to help low-income customers with heating and cooling bills. Of the rest, half would go to existing manufacturers to help pay for improvements to make them more competitive. The remaining money would be divided equally between economic development organizations and programs at universities, technical colleges or high schools that support manufacturing through initiatives like worker training programs.

November 18, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

Datastream Systems faces delisting by Nasdaq as of Nov. 26 after having failed to file its most recently financial earnings report, the company said Wednesday. Datastream (Nasdaq: DSTM) said it planned to appeal the ruling. The company is conducting an "investigation and accounting review" and has not yet filed the SEC report for the quarter ending Sept. 30. Datastream is a developer of asset performance management software and services. Its customers include more than 65 percent of Fortune 500 companies.

November 18, 2004 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

Goglanian Bakeries plans to add 50 new jobs as it spends \$3 million to upgrade its facility. Goglanian Bakeries, which has been operating in Laurens County since January 2000, currently employs 200 people. "We're trying to maintain our current operation and fill all of the shifts with people," said Alex Goglanian, one of the owners and the general manager in Santa Ana, Calif. "In California we're tight for space and (in Fountain Inn) we have plenty of room for expansion." Goglanian said it's possible the company could expand more in the next three to five years. "We'll take advantage of opportunities as they arise," he said. Goglanian said he was uncertain about a time frame for hiring the additional workers at the Fountain Inn plant. The company manufactures flat breads, par-baked pizza crusts, frozen dough balls and bagels. It distributes throughout the United States, Canada, Japan, Australia and Puerto Rico.

December 1, 2004 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

Hundreds of Upstate employees will be out of a job in the next two months. Springs Industries, Inc. announced they will close the doors to two of its South Carolina plants. The Wamsutta Plant in Anderson County, which employs about 140 people and the Lyman Fabrication Plant in Lyman, which employs about 400 people will shut its doors February 1, 2005. A few years ago, the Lyman Complex employed about 800 people, this year there were 400 employees and come next year, there will be zero. Now is usually the time for holiday cheer, shopping and being full of joy, but news of a major layoff is making this holiday a little tougher to face. Faye Clayton of Lyman says, "A lot of people are going to suffer, because they've got children, they have to get stuff for Christmas." Springs Industries announced it will close the two plants to prepare for 2005. Ted Matthews, a spokesman for Springs Industries says, "The availability of more and more imports is affecting the pricing we can get for the products we make here. That's what we're about, trying to stay competitive, we know it's going to be a tough year next year and we're preparing for it." But that preparation means 540 people will be out of a job in two months, news Lyman residents are not happy to hear. "It's cheaper to go overseas to do it, yeah it is, but they've got to think about the people here too in the United States, they've got to survive," says Clayton. Doris Wilson has lived in Lyman her whole life and says, "I think it's very sad. I think the imports don't have the same quality as the goods made in the USA and I think it's a mistake that we're relying very heavily on foreign imports." But Springs say it's what needs to be done to stay competitive. "Unfortunately, this decision today is more about consolidating we have more capacity than we can afford to have here in the United States," says Matthews. Matthews says many of the employees expected the news, still, "Whether expecting it or not, it's still hard news to take and the finality of knowing a date, it's difficult." And people in the town hope the best for everyone. "I just hope the economy gets better and good luck to everybody that's going to be laid off," says Clayton.

December 2, 2004 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

Rhodes, Inc. has retained DJM Asset Management of Melville, New York, subject to Bankruptcy Court approval, to dispose of 21 Rhodes Furniture stores and warehouses and 3 John M. Smyth's Homemakers Furniture stores

located throughout Georgia, Illinois, Kansas, Kentucky, Missouri, North Carolina, Ohio, South Carolina and Tennessee. The disposition of these locations is a key component of Rhodes' restructuring in its Chapter 11 bankruptcy case. On November 24, 2004, the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Georgia, Atlanta division, entered an order authorizing Rhodes to conduct store closing sales at these locations. "The stores and warehouses are located in both strip centers and freestanding buildings and they range in size from 27,809 to 113,250 square feet," stated Andy Graiser, Co-CEO of DJM. "Since many of the stores are in well established locations, have long lease terms and contain below market rental rates, we expect quite a number of interested parties to submit offers to purchase leases." "The locations can be acquired individually or in packages of two or more," Graiser continued, "with all bids subject to bankruptcy court approval." "We expect most of the locations to operate through the end of March 2005 with the exception of six stores which are expected to close at the end of January 2005," said Vicki Johnson, Corporate Counsel and Director of Real Estate at Rhodes, Inc. The Retail Stores and Distribution Facilities that are available for purchase are located at: 1. 4363 NE Express Access Rd. in Doraville, GA 2. 4715 Ashford Dunwoody Rd. in Atlanta (Perimeter Mall), GA 3. 1733 East Woodfield Rd. in Schaumburg, IL (Outlet area only) 4. 1001 W. Main in Sleepy Hollow, IL 5. 66 Orland Square Dr. in Orland Park, IL 6. 12175 South Strang Line Rd. in Olathe, KS 7. 7864 Connector Drive in Florence, KY 8. 6201 Stillwell in Kansas City, MO (Home Delivery Center) 9. 19110 East 39th Street in Independence, MO 10. 1834 Matthews Township Pkwy. in Matthews, NC 11. 3407 Highpoint Rd. in Greensboro, NC 12. 1050 Hanes Mall Blvd. in Winston-Salem, NC 13. 2233 South Hamilton Rd. in Columbus, OH 14. 3622 West Dublin / Grandville Rd. in Columbus, OH 15. 1333 Morse Rd. in Columbus, OH 16. 12000 Princeton Pike in Cincinnati, OH 17. 700 Eastgate South Dr. in Cincinnati, OH 18. 8361 Springboro Pike in Miamisburg, OH 19. 2500 F. North Fairfield Rd. in Beavercreek, OH 20. **555 Haywood Road in Greenville, SC** 21. 1430 Gould Blvd. in Laverne, TN (Home Delivery Center) 22. 2235 Gallatin Rd. N. in Madison, TN 23. 344 White Bridge Rd. in Nashville, TN 24. 2000 Mallory Lane in Franklin, TN

December 3, 2004 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

Food packaging company Select Brands, L-L-C, will invest two-point-five (m) million dollars in a new Greenville facility. It's expected to create 35 jobs. The new facility will manufacture shelf stable flexible retort pouches and trays using a packaging process. The company handles food packaging for pre-cooked rice products, pasta, and meat dishes, macaroni and cheese, stews, and soups.

December 7, 2004 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

A Michigan-based manufacturer says it's relocating to South Carolina. Integrated Manufacturing Incorporated plans to move its headquarters and plant from Farmington Hills to an industrial park 20 miles west of Greenville. The company plans to build a 3.2 million-dollar, 32,000-square-foot facility that will employ nearly 800 workers. Plans call for it to be expanded to 75,000 square feet. The company says it "needed to find a more efficient location."

December 7, 2004 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

Officials say South Carolina is providing at least 116 (m) million dollars in incentives to lure an aircraft complex that will create 645 jobs. Vought Aircraft Industries and Italy's Alenia Aeronautica said last week they are forming a joint venture to make fuselage sections for Boeing's new 7-E-7 Dreamliner. The plant is estimated to cost 560 (m) million dollars. The

package amounts to almost 180-thousand dollars for each job. Florence Senator Hugh Leatherman says the Joint Bond Review Committee approved the package on Monday. The Budget and Control Board is expected to approve the package next week. The package could increase to 160 (m) million dollars if operations at the complex are expanded and at least 14-hundred jobs are created.

December 16, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

An economist says South Carolina's heavy reliance on manufacturing prevented it from pulling out of the 2001 recession as quickly as other states, but factory growth is improving. The state ranked 37th nationally in the growth of goods and services it produced from 2001 to 2003, according to a report released Wednesday by the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis. The nation's manufacturing output is growing at 5.5 percent to 6 percent in 2004, compared with an overall growth rate of 4 percent. South Carolina's gross state product - the value of all goods and services produced - grew to \$127 billion in 2003, according to the federal report. It's up 8.1 percent from 2001, a year marked by a recession from March to November. Meanwhile, U.S. gross product grew 8.8 percent in the first two years of recovery. Textiles and other jobs lost in South Carolina generally paid 40 percent less than other new factory jobs, said economist Mark Vitner of Wachovia Bank in Charlotte, N.C. BMW's 4,700-employee car plant in the Upstate expanded during 2002 and 2003, but it remains a small part of the state's overall economy. Springs Industries announced textile plant closings earlier this month that will cost 540 jobs in the Anderson and Spartanburg areas by early next year. And those textile job losses are a sign of more losses to come as import quotas expire, Vitner said. "We're going to see a lot of plants shut down in the early part of the year," he said. "Fighting free trade is like trying to fight the law of gravity."

December 20, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

Hourly workers overwhelmingly approved a severance agreement with Swedish appliance maker Electrolux AB, which is shutting down its Greenville refrigerator factory, a union official said Sunday. The Electrolux plant has 2,700 employees and is Montcalm County's largest employer. It manufactures 1.6 million refrigerators annually under such brands as Frigidaire, Kenmore, White-Westinghouse, Gibson and Kelvinator. Electrolux announced Jan. 16 that it was closing the factory by November 2005 and moving production to factories in Juarez, Mexico, and Anderson, S.C. The company has indicated it might delay the closing until the spring of 2006, Jim Hoisington, president of United Auto Workers union Local 137, said during a telephone interview. No one at the Greenville factory was available for comment Sunday night, said a security guard who declined to give his name. Local 137 members meeting Saturday at Greenville High School voted to approve the severance agreement by a 1,283-89 margin, Hoisington said. It will provide workers with severance pay of \$400 for every year of service, twice the amount that had been written into their existing contract. The agreement also will pay nearly 75 percent of a full pension to workers who have 10 years of service but have not turned 55 by the time the plant closes, Hoisington said. The existing contract offered less than 50 percent of a full pension, he said. The agreement includes "transition assistance" for employees losing their jobs. But, Hoisington said: "There's not a lot of work in the area. There's some, but it doesn't have the salary and benefits" provided by Electrolux. The average hourly wage for Electrolux workers is \$15 an hour, he said. The Associated Press reported earlier this year that the company could pay Mexican workers as little as \$1.57 an hour. The Stockholm, Sweden-based appliance maker said in October 2003 it was considering shuttering the Greenville plant and moving production because it would save the company \$81 million annually. Almost immediately, a task force of local, state and federal officials was assembled to look at ways to persuade Electrolux to remain. The group presented officials at Electrolux Home Products North America in Augusta, Ga., a package of proposed incentives it said was worth \$42.8 million per year. The package featured tax breaks, money for job training and an offer to help develop a new plant in Greenville. Electrolux said the offer fell "substantially short," and announced plans to close the plant shortly afterward. The closing of the factory also is expected to lead to another 300 layoffs among local Electrolux suppliers. Refrigerators have been made in Greenville, a city of 8,000 residents about 30 miles northeast of Grand Rapids, since the late 19th century, when they were manufactured from wood and called ice boxes. Electrolux's abandonment of Michigan in pursuit of

cheaper labor made Greenville a microcosm of the state's economic woes. Michigan has lost at least 170,000 manufacturing jobs since 2000.

Attachments



Quality of Life

**ADDRESSING PROBLEM/NEED
FOURTH QUARTER 2004**

Problem/Need: **QUALITY OF LIFE**

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>PROGRAM</u>
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Sundays 6:30 am	FORCE OF FAITH
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DESCRIPTION: A religious program that airs every Sunday morning. (30:00)

Sundays 8:30am	IN TOUCH MINISTRIES
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DESCRIPTION: A religious program that airs every Sunday morning. (60:00)

Sundays 10:00am	DAY OF DISCOVERY
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DESCRIPTION: A religious program that airs every Sunday morning. (30:00)

Sundays 9:30 am	TAYLORS FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
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DESCRIPTION: A church service that airs every Sunday morning. (30:00)

October 1, 2004	10:00pm	The Ten O'clock News
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DESCRIPTION:

A 3.2 mile segment at the northern end of the Palmetto Trail is ready to open, offering scenic views of northwestern corner of the state. The Palmetto Conservation Foundation, the group behind the 425-mile trail from the mountains to the coast below the Francis Marion National Forest, will celebrate the opening of the Oconee Connector on Saturday. The new segment rises more than 300 feet per mile on average, connecting Oconee State Park and Oconee Station State Historic Site. The new segment was built through U.S. Agriculture Department forests, in some cases by upgrading old logging roads, foundation executive director Ken Driggers said. Mile for mile, the new segment may be the most expensive in the state, he said. The entire Palmetto Trail is about 65 percent complete, Driggers said. Still to come is a stretch between the Oconee Connector and a phase of the 14-mile Jocassee Gorges passage, which should be officially opened this fall.

October 6, 2004	10:00pm	The Ten O'clock News
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DESCRIPTION:

Six-time Olympic gold medalist Michael Phelps will show off the strokes that propelled him to victory in a swim clinic for children here later this month. The 19-year-old will spend about three hours giving a swim clinic Oct. 23 at the Middle Tyger YMCA in Duncan. The demonstration will raise money for Mobile Meals of Spartanburg. "Michael

Phelps is a wonderful partner for us because we feel that he represents many of the values that are important to us," said Nancy Holmes, director of new donor development for Mobile Meals. For \$100 each, swimmers between the ages of 6 and 18 buy an hour of pool time with Phelps. Each tax deductible donation also allows two spectators to accompany each swimmer. Spectator spots also can be purchased for \$100. Phelps will hold three sessions that day. He also will attend a reception for Mobile Meals donors that evening. Officials expect the visit to raise between \$40,000 and \$50, 000 for the organization. Phelps won six gold and two bronze medals this summer in Athens.

October 6, 2004 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

A Spartanburg County Officer hurt in a car accident is getting help from an auction that is scheduled for Saturday, October 9th. Employees with the sheriff's office are collecting computers, toys, musical instruments, sporting goods, tools and more. The money raised at the event is to help deputy Evans Starnes and his family. Starnes hasn't been able to work for more than a year after he was seriously injured in a car accident while returning home from searching for an Alzheimer's patient. The auction will be held at the loading dock of the sheriff's office at 9:00 A.M. If you have any items that you would like to donate you can call (864) 596-3681, (864) 596-3726, (864) 809-0989 or (864) 809-2583. Organizers are asking for furniture, tools, power equipment, miscellaneous items, etc..no clothes please

October 16, 2004 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

Many of us are already starting our wish list for Christmas this year. However, one Upstate family is coping with a wish they know may not come true. Festive lights and Christmas ornaments adorn a tree. "It touches my heart." As presents are being put under it, the people here at Final ScOrr's Sports Bar and Grill in Inman are celebrating Christmas early for four year-old Aaron Ewing. He's battling cancer caused by an brain tumor and isn't expected to live to see Santa Claus this year. Colby Orr, owns the sports bar. "I would hope that anybody that has a heart would want to do anything to help anybody that needs help," said Orr. Now Aaron has an extended family, some of them close friends but many of them are strangers, like Aaron Webb who dropped off a gift. "Hopefully he will stay here with us 14 more years 20 more years so it felt like the right thing to do," commented Webb. Kylee Orr is only three years-old, and even though she is too young to fully understand what is going on, she knows that Aaron is special. "He's going to heaven," said Kylee. They hope the toys will ease the pain that Aaron and his family are going through. "You go through routines and do what you do and you never know when something like this can happen," commented April Orr. The owners of the sports bar are also hosting a raffle and the winner will not only win a Dale Earnhardt Jr. car hood, but the money will also go to the Ewing family. The goal is to raise five thousand dollars and members of the H-D motorcycle Klub donated more than \$400. "It hit our hearts and he's got such a short time and we wanted to come together to do anything we can for him," said Spark. The stocking stuffers and the presents mean a lot, but the biggest gift they say of course would be a cure. However, right now they are just trying to make little Aaron smile. Other businesses in the area are also helping with the fundraising event. The money will be given to Aaron and his family on Monday. The family is spending the weekend at Disney World in Orlando, FL on a "Make A Wish Trip." IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO MAKE A DONATION TO TY AND WENDY EWING CONTACT COLBY ORR AT FINAL SCORR'S SPORTS BAR AND GRILL LOCATED IN THE LAKE BOWEN AREA IN INMAN: (864) 592-7779.

October 18, 2004 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

Our investigation into Thee Bunny Ranch on Highway 101 inSpartanburg County *appears* to be coming to an end. It looks as though Charles Penland Senior put the brakes on his apparent sex-palace and re-opened his business

as a car dealership. Signs for Thee Bunny Ranch came down recently. They're replaced with signs for Highway 101 Auto Sales. Whether a car dealership will really be there remains to be seen. The black stretch limo still sits behind the barbed-wire fence. To date, there is no retail license registered for Highway 101 Auto Sales. Penland Senior also owns Woodruff Auto Sales in Woodruff.

October 22, 2004 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

More than 1,200 former Spartan International employees lost hundreds of thousands of dollars in retirement savings, insurance benefits and investments when the Spartanburg-based textile company suddenly shut down in 2001, according to a lawsuit. A suit filed Friday in U.S. District Court in Augusta, Ga., on behalf of former employees accuses Spartan International's officers and directors of mismanagement, misconduct and violation of the federal Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974. The suit alleges breach of fiduciary duties, negligence, and securities violations. It claims this was done with the knowledge and consent of the company's top managers and board members. The suit asks for actual damages of more than \$550,000, plus punitive damages and attorney's fees. Among the defendants in the suit are Walter S. Montgomery Jr., former Spartan International president and chairman; Barry Leonard, former president and chief executive officer; Larry J. Ostrower, former vice president and chief financial officer; Rocky A. Mankins, former vice president and treasurer; and six former directors, including Spartanburg Mayor Bill Barnet and Mac Cates. The suit claims more than \$555,068.68 in matching 401(k) funds for employees were not deposited in 2000 and an undetermined amount was not deposited in 2001. The suit says beneficiaries also were not notified of the values of their plans in either year. "There are people counting on this money for their retirement," said Louis Saul, the Augusta attorney who filed the suit on behalf of former employees in three states. "This is a wrong that should be righted." Montgomery did not answer calls at his home Thursday seeking comment. Spartan International was founded in 1890 and was known for most of its history as Spartan Mills. The company ran many local textile plants, including Spartan, Startex, Beaumont and Whitney mills.

October 23, 2004 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

Volunteers with Mobile Meals feed more than 2,000 people in Spartanburg County each week like Odell McClintock. Three years ago, Odell McClintock had a stroke and the set-back made it difficult for him to get around. With his wife working several days a week, it was important for him to get his meals in order to take his medicine. Lottie McClintock, Odell's wife says volunteers and nurses with Mobile Meals do just that. "They check his blood pressure and try to help him with his medicine," said McClintock. Not only do volunteers deliver food, but the McClintocks say they also take time to check on them. "They just ask you how you are doing and how you are feeling," said Odell McClintock. Jayne McQueen, President of Mobile Meals says helping others is the Mobile Meals Mission. "To glorify God by delivering nutritious meals and providing services and fellowship to the frail and homebound," commented McQueen. Swimmers at the Middle Tyger YMCA in Lyman may not know it, but they are helping to make Mobile Meals possible too because of their swim instructor for the day, Olympic gold medalist Michael Phelps. Phelps says helping others is just as rewarding as his eight Olympic medals. "With Mobile Meals every person needs a meal every single day so they can survive," commented Phelps. He won six gold medals and two bronze at this year's games in Athens, Greece. "If you would have asked me at 10-years-old if I was going to be an Olympic champion I would have said no way," commented Phelps. He says determination and practice got him there. A skill he hopes to teach swimmers as well as the gift of giving. Michael Phelps is a student at the University of Michigan. He says he will train there with the swim team and continue community service as well. Money raised from the event will go to Mobile Meals.

October 24, 2004 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

One of auto racing's most successful dynasties was in mourning after a plane owned by Hendrick Motorsports crashed in thick fog en route to a NASCAR race, killing all 10 people aboard, including the son, brother and two nieces of owner Rick Hendrick. The Beech 200 King Air took off from Concord, N.C., and crashed Sunday in the Bull Mountain area seven miles from the Blue Ridge Regional Airport in Spencer, near the Martinsville Speedway, said Arlene Murray, spokeswoman for the Federal Aviation Administration. "It's just very tough," said Donnie Floyd, an employee of Hendrick, who placed a bouquet of flowers outside the company's Charlotte, N.C., headquarters. "We are like one big family." News of the crash halted Hendrick driver Jimmie Johnson's victory celebration after the Subway 500 in Martinsville as news of the deaths filtered through the Hendrick team, which also includes drivers Jeff Gordon, Terry Labonte and Brian Vickers. The cause of the crash was not immediately known, but it happened in rough, hard-to-reach terrain in weather described as "extremely foggy" by Dale Greeson, who lives about a mile from the site. Hendrick Motorsports issued a statement late Sunday asking "that those affected be kept in your thoughts and prayers, and respectfully requests that privacy be considered throughout this difficult time." Rick Hendrick did not go to the race because he wasn't feeling well, a team spokesman said. The National Transportation Safety Board was to begin an investigation Monday. It was the second major plane accident in less than a week: On Tuesday, 13 people died and two were injured when a commuter plane crashed and burned near Kirksville, Mo. Many of the passengers were doctors and other medical professionals heading to a conference. Hendrick employs 460 workers at its North Carolina compound, which includes race shops and a 15,000-square-foot museum and team store. Flowers were placed on shrubs leading into the compound. The tragedy came on what was to be a triumphant day for the company, with Johnson winning his series-best sixth race and Gordon rallying from a poor start to finish ninth and move into second place in the championship standings. NASCAR officials learned of the accident during the Subway 500 but withheld the news from the Hendrick drivers until afterward, NASCAR spokesman Jim Hunter said. NASCAR drivers reacted with a familiar sadness. Series stars Davey Allison and Alan Kulwicki were killed in separate air crashes in 1993. "I was hoping I'd never hear this," NASCAR driver Mark Martin told the Speed Network after the race. Martin's father, stepmother and half sister died in 1998 when a private plane his father was piloting crashed in Nevada. "I just feel so bad it's unreal," said Martin, himself a pilot. Driver Rusty Wallace, also a pilot, said he considered the airports in Talladega, Ala., and Martinsville the two most dangerous facilities to fly into for races. Hendrick's team has been on a season-long celebration of its 20th anniversary in NASCAR's top series. The organization has won five titles in the top series, three truck series championships, and one Busch series crown. The team has more than 100 Cup series wins, making Rick Hendrick just the second team owner in NASCAR's modern era to surpass that mark. He's also viewed as a pioneer for beginning the movement to multicar teams in the 1990s. Hendrick Motorsports identified the dead as: Ricky Hendrick, Rick Hendrick's son; John Hendrick, Rick Hendrick's brother and president of Hendrick Motorsports; Kimberly and Jennifer Hendrick, John Hendrick's 22-year-old twin daughters; Joe Jackson, an executive with DuPont; Jeff Turner, general manager of Hendrick Motorsports; Randy Dorton, the team's chief engine builder; Scott Lathram, a pilot for NASCAR driver Tony Stewart; and pilots Richard Tracy and Elizabeth Morrison. Ricky Hendrick began his career driving a Busch car for his father, but retired in 2002 because of a racing-related shoulder injury. His father then made him the owner of the Busch car Vickers drove to the series championship last season, and was grooming him for a larger role. Rick Hendrick pleaded guilty in 1997 to a single count of mail fraud involving the payment of \$20,000 to a Honda executive. He was fined \$250,000, but avoided jail time because he was battling a near-fatal case of leukemia. He was later pardoned by former President Clinton. Joe McGovern, a racing fan from Concord, N.C., drove by the team's compound to pay his respects. "It's just devastating," he said. "This was just a great racing team and they are also such nice people."

November 1, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

Children as young as 3-5 years old may be on their way to obesity because of a lack of exercise, a new study shows. The University of South Carolina's Arnold School of Public Health tracked the activity levels preschool kids

found that many were not getting even half the required two hours of moderate to vigorous activity they need. The study is one of a few to focus on the physical activity of 3- to 5-year-olds and is reported in the November issue of the journal *Pediatrics*, released Monday. "Obesity rates are skyrocketing in Americans in general and kids included," said Russ Pate, the professor and researcher who led the study. "If we're going to learn how to prevent this problem, we'll need to include actions that can be taken with young kids." The level of activity varied widely among preschools, Pate said. Parents should ask about activity hours when considering a preschool. "They're going to be there for a lot of hours," he said. "It's enough time to matter." One thing to look for is a safe and attractive outdoor play area, which appears to promote more activity during the preschool day. For the study, 281 children from nine Columbia-area preschools were fitted with activity-monitoring devices called Actigraph accelerometers. Information was recorded for an average of 4.4 hours a day for 6.6 days. On average, children engaged in 7.7 minutes of moderate-to-vigorous physical activity for each hour they were in preschool - that is equal to about an hour during an eight-hour day. The National Association for Sport and Physical Education recommends a two-hour physical activity requirement during a six-hour preschool day. The study also found that boys are more active than girls - something other studies have found. Researchers said the findings suggest that girls should be encouraged as early as possible to be more active. More than half of those in the age group studied are in preschool. More than 10 percent of 4- and 5-year-old children were overweight in 1994, compared with 5.8 percent in 1974. Pate, 57 and a father of two, said he had pictured preschoolers as little bundles of energy always on the move. But like other Americans, kids live in an environment in which people do less walking and more electronic gaming and TV-watching than previous generations. He said it was unclear whether preschools had changed their focus on physical activity. "But we do have to remember that young children learn by moving ... by interacting with other kids and their environment," Pate said. Eastminster Day School on Trenholm Road takes that philosophy to heart and most kids there get close to two hours of activity a day, director Mele Baize said. The children at the school also sign up for programs, such as gymnastics, dance and karate. The school is next door to a church and has access to the gym. Pate said the size, resources and equipment at preschools play a role in whether they promote healthy levels of activity. "I really think that if directors of preschools and people who work in preschools are sensitized to this issue, we can readily influence this," he said.

November 9, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

War is painful on many levels, we are reminded of this every Veterans' Day. This year, many will be able to find comfort in the first South Carolina Healing Field of Honor, located at the Graceland East Memorial Park on Woodruff Road and Highway 14. One thousand American flags surround the Veterans' Memorial. The impressive sight opened Tuesday to honor Veterans, First Responders and those who continue to fight terrorism everyday. Robert Farris is the Senior Commandant with the Marine Corps League and says, "It's the American Soldier that really represents freedom everywhere he goes...our flag is not a flag of conquest it's a flag of liberation." Yellow ribbons have been placed on 24 different flags, representing the number of South Carolina soldiers killed in Iraq thus far. The Healing Field is sponsored by the Woodruff Road Exchange Club. A different ceremony will be held each day to honor various service men and women. Wednesday at noon, law enforcement will be honored. Thursday's ceremony begins at 10 am and will honor all veterans. Friday at noon, firefighters will be honored and Saturday's ceremony begins at noon for EMS. The Healing Field will be open 24 hours a day to the public and will close Saturday at 4pm. Each flag is for sale for \$25, all proceeds will go to Child Abuse Greenville. If you'd like to purchase a flag, contact Doris Ash at 289-9369 or 483-1900. For more information on the Healing Field, log onto www.healingfield.org or www.healingfield.org/greenville.

November 10, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

Warren Messer weighed 80 pounds, and had turned blue. His knees were crushed and his feet and fingers were broken. He was struggling to hang on to life in the hell of a Cambodian prisoner-of-war camp during the Vietnam War, when he saw the eyes of the man who would save his life. He never forgot those eyes. Messer was on assignment in Cambodia doing reconnaissance missions for the U.S. Marine Corps when he was captured. Ronnie Scroggs, an Air Force medic and Rutherford County native, lifted Messer from the hell of the Cambodian POW camp on July 25, 1970. It was Messer's birthday. Of course, no one knew that at the time. Messer had been so brutalized that he couldn't tell anyone, including his savior, "Doc Roc" Scroggs. In fact, Scroggs expected him to die. During the rescue efforts, Scroggs' captain even suggested a mercy killing. Scroggs disagreed. "He was laying on the ground ... I saw something in his eyes," a tearful Scroggs said, recalling the day he saw Messer in the POW prison. Scroggs and two other POWs he rescued spent three days trekking through the jungle to carry the wounded Messer, hidden in a bamboo cage, to a helicopter that flew him away for medical care. Who would have ever thought that 34 years later, Messer would see those compassionate eyes again. Just over a month ago, fate and an alert Veterans Services Office official intervened. Messer, 57, who lives in Gaffney, S.C., often traveled to Spindale for counseling at the Veterans Service Office. He is a victim of post-traumatic stress disorder. Scroggs, 56, also visits the Spindale veterans office on a regular basis where he meets with Veterans Services Officer Marie Champion to talk about his benefits, the motorcycle club, the war, or just to spend time with friends. Neither was aware they lived 30 miles apart. Scroggs hadn't thought much about Messer in the three decades since he last saw him. "When I last saw him, I left him for dead," Scroggs said. But Messer had spent a long time attempting to find the unknown soldier who saved his life. Because he was in such bad shape, Messer couldn't communicate with Scroggs during the rescue. For some reason, Messer said he thought Scroggs was in the Navy so he searched in that direction. Scroggs was in the Air Force. The two men were reunited in an unbelievable meeting at the Veterans Office on Old Fairground Road here a month ago. Last Friday, for the first time, they talked publicly about the Vietnam War and their miracle meeting. "I knew it was him when I saw his eyes. That's what I saw when he got me out of the camp. Those eyes. A dying man sees only the eyes of the person helping him," Messer said. "The last time I saw him, he was blue," Scroggs said. Messer said he also remembered Scroggs' smile and when Scroggs produced that smile when they saw each other again, the two wept. Their meeting happened because Champion listened to their stories at separate times through the years. Some time ago Messer sat down and told his POW story and how he was rescued on his birthday. As he listened, Champion started thinking of past conversations with Scroggs. He had told her he was a medic in Vietnam and he had rescued 18 POWs in the 10 months he was there. She put the two stories together and although she didn't have a clue if Scroggs had rescued Messer, she arranged for Messer to be at the office at the time Scroggs was there. "We met right here in this hall," Messer said with his

arms around Scroggs. "It was those eyes again. As soon as I saw those eyes. We hugged and we cried and cried for a long time," Messer said. "The chances of us seeing each other again was astronomical," Messer continued. "For about 35 years we've blocked a lot of this out. We don't talk about it too much. It's too hard. I have been depressed," Messer said. Messer recalled how he was a U.S. Marine doing reconnaissance missions during the Vietnam War. It was on assignment in Cambodia that he was captured on Oct. 3, 1968, after being shot four times. His feet were broken, his ankles broken, all his fingers were broken, his knees were crushed. That day in 1970, when Scroggs helped to rescue three soldiers from the POW Camp, he never expected Messer to recover. "Now this has really brought us closure," Messer said. "Yes, there is closure now," Scroggs added. Although it took him more than a year to recover from the physical wounds of his first reconnaissance mission, Messer later returned to Vietnam to another tour of duty. Messer is still in the Marine Corps where he serves as a member of the Marine Corps League, Shelby, as a member of the Foothills Detachment. "I'll stay in the Marine Corps 'til they pull the flag across me," he said. Scroggs didn't make the Air Force a career, instead, returning to Rutherford County and building a career with the Rutherford County EMS. "We fully support each other," Scroggs said. "He's my brother," Messer said. "We are doing the best we can. One day at a time," Messer said. Messer received 17 Purple Hearts and by the end of the year is expected to receive a Congressional Medal of Honor.

November 12, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

Bob Jones III, the president of fundamentalist Bob Jones University, has told President Bush he should use his electoral mandate to "appoint many conservative judges" and approve legislation "defined by biblical norm." "In your re-election, God has graciously granted America - though she doesn't deserve it - a reprieve from the agenda of paganism," Jones wrote Bush in a congratulatory letter posted on the university's Web site. "You have been given a mandate ... Put your agenda on the front burner and let it boil. You owe the liberals nothing. They despise you because they despise your Christ," the letter said. It is dated Nov. 3. A White House spokesman said he didn't know whether the president had seen the letter. "It is easy to rejoice today because Christ has allowed you to be His servant in this nation for another presidential term," Jones wrote. "Undoubtedly, you will have the opportunity to appoint many conservative judges and exercise forceful leadership with the Congress in passing legislation that is defined by biblical norm regarding the family, sexuality, sanctity of life, religious freedom, freedom of speech and limited government," the letter said. Jonathan Pait, a spokesman for the university, said the letter was placed on the school's Web site because Jones had read it to students in chapel and many told their parents about it. "We put it up there, not because we were trying to get in anyone's face, but because parents were asking what was in the letter. This way, we can direct them to that point," Pait said. He said Jones has not received a response from the White House. The spokesman said it would be a misreading of the letter to think that "everyone who voted for the Democrats is a pagan" or that "if you voted for John Kerry you are a despiser of Christ." "For example, there are those who voted for John Kerry because they opposed the war in Iraq," Pait said. "Dr. Jones did not intend to paint everyone with that broad a brush." In February 2000, Bush spoke at Bob Jones University when he was running for his first term in the White House. At the time, the school banned interracial dating and included anti-Roman Catholic material on its Web site. The private Christian college has since dropped the dating ban but still maintains material questioning Catholicism on its Internet site. Bush came under fire for the visit but defended it. He later wrote Cardinal John O'Connor of New York to apologize.

November 12, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

Through tributes and memorial services the family of Marine LCpl Traivs Fox is trying to heal. They say even though they would rather have him here of course, however, they are very proud of his service. The Fox family says Travis loved them very much and loved being a Marine. He had only been in Iraq for a couple of weeks when a suicide bomber ambushed his unit. He died instantly. Fox was honored on Veterans' Day and in his hometown of Cowpens his mother, Cheryl Fox, says even strangers are paying their respects. "They missed a blessing by not

knowing him because he was just loving and caring. He would give you the shirt off of his back," said Fox. His family wears his button proudly saying that it was a blessing to have Travis around even for the short time they did. Visitation will be held Friday night from 6:30 P.M. to 9:30 P.M. at Westside Baptist Church in Cowpens. On Saturday, another visitation will be held from 1:00 P.M. to 2:00 P.M. at Abner Creek Baptist Church in Greer.

November 16, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

From super-sized drinks, to SUV's, to big screen televisions; just about everything is getting bigger, including religion. According to a recent national survey, the Upstate is now home to almost ten mega-churches and the numbers are growing. Why the popularity? FOX Carolina's Susan Scarborough is here with an inside look at the congregations. Sunday is traditionally the most segregated day of the week, but that seems to be changing in the Upstate. Folks are flocking to mega-churches to find faith in a big way. From bookstores, to coffee houses, the signs to salvation are changing. At Brookwood church, with nearly 2,000 members, churchgoers enjoy house blend coffee and Plasma TV screens. Kids get checked in using bar codes; high tech religion from a church whose pastor dresses in jeans. The simple dress code is one reason the church attracts so many. "Today we have a lot of people who didn't grow up in a church or have not been (to church) in 15 years. So we're an easy return to church for those people or an easy introduction to church," says Pastor Perry Duggar. That introduction to the church includes a brand new building with a concert like atmosphere. The service is complete with skits and surround-sound. Sunday worship averages several thousand. Just across town there's another church packing them in by the thousands. Redemption World Outreach started 13 years ago. Mega churches have been around for decades and many studies have been done about them. The numbers change, but a church is considered a mega church if it has at least 2,000 people attending service. So what do you call a church that seats 4,000? The average mega church. But Redemption World Outreach is far from your average upstate church. 50 percent of its members are white; 50 percent black. The number one reason for this church's mega size. "It's so broad based. There are not so selective on who their membership can be," says Milton Shockley, Redemption World Outreach member. "We live in a multicultural neighborhood, work in a multicultural job and school, why can't we worship in a multicultural setting," says Dewayne Daniel, Redemption World Outreach member. Pastor Ron Carpenter is a charismatic preacher who has built his membership from 3 to more than 4,000. He's on a mission to minister to those who need it most with ministries. From counseling to women's groups, there are more than 100. "I will tell you personally having been a small church, it's hard being small to offer the smorgasbord of ministries. Keeping up with our 106 is a huge undertaking," said Carpenter. 1,400 volunteers help out weekly. The challenge in these huge operations is to make the church feel not so mega. "If I'm real with you, I tell you that's our challenge," says Carpenter. "You know about the same number of people regardless of size of the church. I don't know everyone in the room, (I) need to have relationships with a group of people," continues Carpenter. In the large shadows of the megas, you'll find many small churches doing things quite differently. Walter Shepard knows almost every one of his 100 members. With only one part time staff member, the Harrison Bridge Road Presbyterian Church is far from large. There's no fancy TV screen or sound system. Just a bible, microphone, and a rustic cross made of wood. A simple service his members flock to. "It's certainly smaller, but the intimacy factor is big here. We do get to know one another," he says. Mega churches are good for gathering those who have never been to church before, but he can't imagine every building his membership to mega size. Pastor Shepard plans to keep preaching to his 100 members, while the mega churches have no idea how big they'll get. Brookwood could expand its campus and Redemption World Outreach has a TV ministry and dozens of satellite churches across the country. "I think there will always be very traditional churches, casual churches and everything in between," says Perry Duggar. The mega churches in the upstate are relatively small compared with others around the country. Mega churches in Texas and California have attendance each Sunday well over 20,000. But regardless of their big popularity, mega churches make up just 5 to 10 percent of all churches in America.

November 18, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

The South Carolina Baptist Convention elected the Rev. Jerry C. White its president Wednesday as the group concluded its two-day meeting in Columbia. White, who lives in Simpsonville, is pastor of Riverside Baptist Church in Greer. He received his bachelor's degree from Gardner-Webb University in 1974 and his doctorate of ministry from Luther Rice Seminary in 1980. White, ordained at Chesnee First Baptist Church in 1972, has been a pastor in South Carolina for 25 years. The Southern Baptists are the largest denomination in South Carolina.

November 25, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

A 23-year-old man hunting deer in Union County has been killed in what investigators say was an accidental shooting. Jeffrey Parker, of Pacolet, was hunting with his father and two friends near Jonesville Saturday morning when they spread out through the woods to try and get the deer to run, authorities said. One of the friends saw movement and fired, hitting Parker, who died shortly after he was taken to the hospital, authorities said. The shooting appeared to be an accident, Natural Resources Department spokesman Lt. Robert McCullough said. Wildlife officials will investigate the shooting to see if the hunters were wearing proper safety attire, or whether alcohol was involved, McCullough said.

November 28, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

In stores and in shopping malls cash registers are getting a good work-out and shoppers like Regina Madden, are taking advantage of the sales. "They have great sales like 60% to 75% off," said Madden. However, the holiday season is ringing up more than discount items and big sales, this season shoppers may be able to cash in on another popular buy. "You see Poinsettias everywhere at your church, in the mall, wherever you go there is poinsettias," said Darlyne Perry. Alvin Mcabee started caring for plants more than 40 years ago. He now owns Roebuck Greenhouses in Spartanburg County. He says this season, the plentiful crop comes as a nice early Christmas gift. "I think this season has been a little better growing season. We've had a lot of clear days and cool nights," said Mcabee. At first, he thought severe flooding from hurricanes that drenched the Upstate could ruin the blooms. "We don't like a lot of cloudy weather they just stretch a lot," commented Mcabee. Just like too much water can hurt Poinsettias, so can not having enough. We first met Alvin Mcabee back in 2002 when he was dealing with a drought. "Of course this year we've had one of the worst droughts since we've been in the plant business," commented Mcabee. However he weathered the storm once again. "Lot of the selling is based on the economy." This year, shoppers are spending more money than last year and he's banking on sales to be in full bloom for the holiday season. "They just make you think about Christmas when you look at Poinsettias."

December 16, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

Several Upstate lawmakers say they will look into why the power was cut off at the home of an 89-year-old woman who later died from exposure to the cold. Sen. David Thomas, R-Fountain Inn, sent a letter to Duke Power on Wednesday asking the utility to provide some answers. Police discovered Elizabeth Verdin's body Monday. The widow's power was cut off Dec. 6. "Ms. Verdin obviously fell through the cracks," Thomas wrote to the Charlotte, N.C.-based utility. "I know that you are grieved at what happened, and I am not writing to Duke in any accusatory fashion." Verdin's power was cut off when temperatures were mild, Duke Power spokesman Tim Pettit said. However, a recent cold front had temperatures across the state in the low 20s at night. The consumer services manager at the state Public Service Commission said there are no regulations that bar utilities from disconnecting power. April Sharpe of the PSC said Duke followed procedures in Verdin's case, sending her repeated notices and information on a program that prevents the elderly from having their power turned off between December and March. Thomas said he would like the state to explore a policy used in some northern states where power is not allowed to be turned off in winter months. Sen. Ralph Anderson, D-Greenville, said he favors exploring the ban. "I just think that we need to come together and make money available and see that this will not happen in Greenville County again," he said. Sen. Verne Smith, R-Greer, said "a big corporation shouldn't be allowed to turn that off without investigating, especially in cold weather." Pettit said a contract worker knocked on Verdin's door, and when he received no answer, he cut the power and left a notice on the door knob. Pettit said the utility doesn't cut off power if the weather forecast calls for an average temperature at or below freezing.

December 17, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

Friends and family remembered 25-year-old pilot Andrew Shields as a hero who never would have wanted the praise heaped on him at his funeral Saturday afternoon. Shields, a lieutenant in the South Carolina National Guard, was killed Dec. 9 in Iraq along with fellow Guard pilot Chief Warrant Officer Patrick D. Leach of Rock Hill. About 700 to 800 people packed New Prospect Baptist Church and the neighboring gym, where the service was shown on closed-circuit television, to pay their last respects to the Campobello native. "We just wanted to honor what he did," cousin Casey Burnett said after the service. "He never thought of himself as doing anything, and that's not true. He did a lot." The full military service included a 21-gun salute at graveside and a flyover from three AH-64 Apache helicopters like the one Shields flew. Shields was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star. Although most who knew him say Andrew Shields would have balked at a hero's burial, his sister said his family wanted to make sure he was honored. "He deserved it," Julie Shields said. "He earned it." In addition to his sister, Andrew Shields is survived by his parents, Donald and Emily Burnett Shields; older brother, Donald Shields II, and twin brother, Philip.

December 20, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

Pat Owens wants to make this a merry Christmas for her 600 children. None of them are her own. Instead, the 55-year-old woman known around Spartanburg as "Christmas Lady," has spent the past 11 months acquiring gifts for children who might not have anything under the tree otherwise. "Every child deserves something on Christmas," she said last week, as she rushed around the city in her last-minute dash. Now is crunch time. Mrs. Owens is spending 16 to 20 hours a day collecting presents from her sponsors and sorting them out for delivery this week. "She's a remarkable lady," said Becky Castro, program manager for the Miracle Hill Ministries Spartanburg Mission, one of two local shelters Owens helps. "I tried to do for just a few children before she showed up, and it was just so much work." Mrs. Owens' energy is infectious, and her attitude is always sunny. With just 10 days until Christmas, 150 of her 600 children didn't have sponsors. She has prayed about it and has faith things will work out. They did last year, and the 15 years before that. "I'll wait until the last minute," she said. "I won't give up." Ms. Owens has always loved Christmas and always helped others. When she worked at T&S Mills in Spartanburg, she used to run charity drives and collect food for the needy. But she found her calling 17 years ago. As she drove by the Ark Youth Home with her husband, she said the Lord spoke to her: "I want you to help them from now on." "I told the Lord, 'I am just a redneck girl. How can I help you?'" Mrs. Owens said. "And he said, 'This is not for the faint of heart. It requires a strong redneck girl to get things done.'" So she called the youth home, and they said they had 15 children who needed help. "They embraced it," she said. "They had never had Christmas before." At about the same time, her doctor told her if she kept working at the mill, complications from her diabetes could cost a foot or her leg. So she went on disability and became Christmas Lady full time. The first children were brought to her attention from the shelters. Word quickly spread through the poor neighborhoods nearby, and mothers starting coming to the shelters to put their children on the list too, Ms. Castro said. In the past few years, Mrs. Owens' workload has exploded. She helped 165 children in 2002, and about 350 last year. Her only helpers are her mother, her husband, her own children and a few volunteers. She keeps her records in a spiral notebook, ripping pages out as she makes lists of where she needs to pick up gifts. Mrs. Owens used to ask no questions but learned last year that some of her needy children weren't so needy. Two Spartanburg County school districts agreed to help her verify the claims through counselors at elementary schools. And she doesn't do only Christmas. At her Boiling Springs, S.C., home, about 1,000 packages for soldiers overseas sit in the garage, waiting for someone to help her send them. For Christmas, Ms. Owens sends the lists unfiltered to her sponsors. At Charter Communications, she picked up a pickup truck full of toys Wednesday, including a couple of bicycles, a video game console and all sorts of other goodies. The company sponsored 10 children this year, technician Calvin Ward said. After Mrs. Owens' husband loaded up the presents, Ward gave the Christmas Lady a big hug. "She's a great woman. Just look at what all she does," he said. "We just help her a little bit by buying the presents. She does the miracle and gets them to all the children who need them."

December 28, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

The recent devastation to southern Asia caused by the tsunami has brought on many questions about the safety of Americans living and visiting the area. The American Red Cross is providing shelter, and supplies to the victims. Also the International Federation of the Red Cross issued an early appeal for 6.6 million dollars to help out 500,000 people. You can help by making a financial gift to the International Response Fund by visiting your local chapter or visit them online at www.redcross.org. The Red Cross encourages those seeking out their loved ones to contact them by e-mail or phone. If these routes of communication fail contact the US Department at 1-888-407-4747 for more information on Americans in these areas.

December 29, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

The recent destruction in south Asia has brought on the desire to help in many. With the death toll at 80,000, people all over the world are moved by this tragedy and are giving a variety of donations. Clothes, water, and other living supplies are among the top necessities. Cash however is the most needed. Some are aware of this and are reportedly donating money directly into bank accounts of victims. If you want to help but aren't sure how, here are a couple of relief agencies you can contact for more information. Southern Baptist Convention International Mission Board www.imb.org <http://www.imb.org> or 1-800-999-3113 United Methodist Committee on Relief www.umc.org <http://www.umc.org> Presbyterian Disaster www.pcusa.org/pda <http://www.pcusa.org/pda> Catholic Church www.catholic.org <http://www.catholic.org> Save the Children www.savethechildren.org Red Cross www.redcross.org Direct Relief www.directrelief.org Doctors without Borders www.doctorswithoutborders.org

December 30, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

[Habitat for Humanity International](#) Agencies planning aid to earthquake and tidal wave victims in Asia

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The following aid agencies are accepting contributions for assistance that they or their affiliates are providing for those affected by the earthquake and tidal waves in Asia. U.S. organizations are members of InterAction, a coalition of relief, development and refugee assistance agencies. InterAction can be reached at 202-667-8227.

[Action Against Hunger](#)

247 West 37th St.
New York, NY 10018
212-967-7800

[ADRA International](#)

12501 Old Columbia Pike
Silver Spring, MD 20904
800-424-ADRA (2372)

[American Friends Service Committee](#)

1501 Cherry St.
Philadelphia, PA 19102
888-588-2372

[American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee Inc.](#)

P.O. Box 321
847A Second Ave.
New York, New York 10017
212-885-0832

[American Jewish World Service](#)

45 W. 36th St., 10th Fl.
New York, NY 10018
212-736-2597

[American Red Cross](#)

2025 E St. NW
Washington, DC, 20006
800-HELP-NOW

[American Refugee Committee](#)

430 Oak Grove Street, Suite 204
Minneapolis, MN 55403
612-872-7060

[AmeriCares](#)

88 Hamilton Ave.
Stamford, CT 06902
800-486-4357

[Baptist World Aid](#)

405 North Washington St.
Falls Church, VA 22046
703 790 8980

[B'nai B'rith International](#)

2020 K. St. NW 7th Floor
Washington, DC 20006
212-490-3290

[Brother's Brother Foundation](#)

1200 Galveston Ave.
Pittsburgh, PA 15233
412-321-3160

[CARE](#)

151 Ellis St. NE
Atlanta, GA 30303
800-521-CARE

[Catholic Relief Services](#)

209 West Fayette Street
Baltimore, MD 21201
877-HELP-CRS

[Christian Children's Fund](#)

PO Box 26484

Richmond, Virginia - 23261-6484
800-776-6767

[Christian Reformed World Relief Committee](#)

2850 Kalamazoo Ave. SE
Grand Rapids, MI, 49560
800-55-CRWRC

[Church World Service](#)

PO Box 968
Elkhart, IN 46515
800-297-1516

[Concern Worldwide, US](#)

104 East 40th Street, Suite 903
New York, NY 10016
212-557-8000

[Direct Relief International](#)

27 South La Patera Lane
Santa Barbara, CA 93117
805-964-4767

[Episcopal Relief and Development](#)

PO Box 12043
Newark, NJ 07101-5043
800-334-7626, ext. 5129

[Food for the Hungry Inc.](#)

1224 E. Washington St.
Phoenix, AZ 85034
800-2-HUNGERS

121 Habitat St
Americus, GA 31709
229-924-6935

[Heart to Heart International](#)

401 S. Clairborne Suite 302
Olathe, KS 66062
888-800-4327

[International Aid](#)

17011 W. Hickory
Spring Lake, MI 49456
800-968-7490

[International Medical Corps](#)

1919 Santa Monica Blvd., Suite 300
Santa Monica, CA 90404-1950
800-481-4462

[International Relief Teams](#)

3547 Camino Del Rio South, Suite C
San Diego, CA 92108
619-284-7979

[International Rescue Committee](#)

PO Box 5058
Hagerstown, MD 21741-9874
877-REFUGEE or 733-8433

[Latter-Day Saint Charities](#)

50 East North Temple Street, Room 701
Salt Lake City, Utah, 84150-6800
801-240-3544

[Lutheran World Relief](#)

700 Light St.
Baltimore, MD 21230
410-230-2700

[MAP International](#)

P.O. Box 215000
Brunswick, GA 31521
800-225-8550

[Mercy Corps](#)

Dept. W, PO Box 2669
Portland, OR 97208-2669
800-852-2100

[Northwest Medical Teams](#)

PO Box 10 Portland, OR 97207
800-959-4325 (HEAL)

[Operation USA](#)

8320 Melrose Ave. #200
Los Angeles, CA 90069
800-678-7255

[Oxfam America](#)

PO Box 1211
Albert Lea, MN 56007-1211
800-77-OXFAM

[Plan USA](#)

155 Plan Way
Warwick, RI 02886
800-556-7918

[Project Concern International](#)

5151 Murphy Canyon Road Suite 320
San Diego, CA 92123
858-279-9690

[Project HOPE](#)

255 Carter Hall Lane
Millwood, VA 22646
800-544-4673

[Relief International](#)

1575 Westwood Blvd., Suite 201
Los Angeles, CA 90024
310-478-1200

SAWSO (Salvation Army World Service Office)
South Asia Relief Fund
615 Slaters Lane
Alexandria, VA, 22313
800-SAL-ARMY

[Save the Children USA](#)

54 Wilton Road
Westport, CT 06880
1-800-728-3843

[Stop Hunger Now](#)

SE Asia crisis
2501 Clark Ave, Suite 200
Raleigh, NC 27607
888-501-8440

[US Fund for UNICEF](#)

General Emergency Fund
333 E. 38th St.
New York, NY 10016
800-4-UNICEF

[World Concern](#)

Asia Earthquake and Tsunami
19303 Fremont Avenue North
Seattle, WA 98133
800-755-5022

[World Emergency Relief](#)

2270-D Camino Vida Roble
Carlsbad, CA 92009
760-930-8001

[World Hope International](#)

P.O. Box 96338
Washington DC 20090
888-466-4673

[World Relief](#)

7 E Baltimore St
Baltimore MD 21202
800-535-5433

[World Vision](#)

P.O. Box 70288
Tacoma, WA 98481-0288
888-56-CHILD

December 30, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

The Tsunami Crisis in Asia has people across the Carolinas wanting to do something. But, South Carolina's Secretary of State warns, some folks may try to use your good intentions to their advantage.. Bottom line, beware of con jobs. Secretary of State Mark Hammond says if you are asked for a donation, chances are the caller is a paid, professional fundraiser, but before you send a check ask questions like, are you a volunteer or professional solicitor? For more tips on making safe contributions log onto www.scsos.com.